Speed Up the Development of Philosophy and Social Sciences with Chinese Characteristics under the Guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Wang Weiguang 王伟光, President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, party secretary, Honorary Director of World Socialism Studies

The 19th CPC National Congress solemnly proposed Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era and established it as CPC’s long term guiding thought. Xi’s thought reflects the theoretical requirements in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, manifests the theoretical advance of Marxism with the times, opens up new space for socialist practice with Chinese characteristics, and brings the sinicization of Marxism to a new level. Further study and dissemination of Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era is the most important political and theoretical task at present. We must stick to its guidance in coordinating our work in the fields of philosophy and social science, with a focus on major issues that concern the Party and the State. Specifically, we should further develop a new type of think-tank with Chinese characteristics and establish Research Center of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, so as to make new contributions to the construction and development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

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The Global Significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

Li Shenming 李慎明, Editor in chief of World Socialism Studies; Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

The 19th CPC Congress established Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics as the Party’s guides for action. Under this guide, the Chinese nation completes its great leap from being an independent nation to being a prosperous nation and then to being a strong nation. China’s great development presents to the world a Chinese way of confidence and is therefore of tremendous global significance. The road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as a completely new reference, has contributed to the human development with Chinese concepts of value, development and foreign relations. In the broad context of structural changes in the world, China is building a community with shared future for mankind, actively participating in the construction of the global governance system, striving to contribute Chinese wisdom and provide Chinese plan to the improvement of global governance, all further highlighting the global significance of Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era. Fully understanding the historical and global significance of Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era is of
critical importance to the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the great
rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and the innovation of Marxism in the 21st century.

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• Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era •

Carry out Party History Research with Marxist Position, Outlook and Methodology:
Learning from Xi Jinping’s Comments on the Party History Related
Wu Degang

Acting upon Xi Jinping’s idea of the right position, outlook and methodology in our research on the Party history means to answer a series of important questions: why should we study and investigate the Party history? What position, outlook and methodology should we adopt in such research? How do we evaluate the major events and historical figures in the Party history? And in what way can we take a firm stand against historical nihilism? First, a Marxist position, outlook and methodology in histology require us to stick to the Marxist party spirit, people-centered position, and materialist conception of the history. Second, correct understanding of the major historical events and fair evaluation of historical figures must be based on accurate grasping of the Party history as a whole, the central theme, principle line, main stream and nature of its historical evolution. Third, a firm stand against historical nihilism involves high alert to it and the courage to fight against it, a profound understanding of its nature, and an unwavering stance in defending the Party history.

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The Practical Foundation, Theoretical Origin and Spiritual Essence of Xi Jinping’s Thought on the Rule of Law in Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era
Chi Fangxu 迟方旭, Lanzhou University Law School

Xi Jinping’s thought on the rule of law in socialism with Chinese characteristics has taken shape as a scientific-theoretical system, and continues to develop toward maturity. As objective truth, it is characteristic of universal applicability, rigid logic and ability for scientific prediction. Grounded on the practice of the construction of the rule of law in socialism with Chinese characteristics, it has inherited both Marxist legal ideas and the theoretical resources of the rule of law in socialism with Chinese characteristics, and manifests the people-centered spiritual essence.

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• Studies on World Socialism •

Opportunities and Challenges Faced by the US Socialist Movement in the Early 21st Century
Lei Hongyan

The 21st century is a century of great transformation and development, which has brought about tremendous and profound changes to the world socialist movement. As an important force of the world socialist movement, the development of the US socialist movement has its own particularity. It is not only closely linked to the overall trend of the world socialist
movement but also deeply influenced by the US politics, economy and culture. At the beginning of the 21st century, the US socialist movement is confronted with opportunities and great potential on the one hand, and difficulties and challenges on the other. In the meantime, however, the law-abiding general trend of social development remains the same, and so long as the capitalist system exists, the Communist Party of USA and the American people will not stop their exploration of the socialist road.

On the Opportunities, Problems and Challenges in the Dissemination of World Socialist Movement by Foreign Leftist Scholars and Their Related Advice (p. 42)

Li Qiang 李强, CASS Information and Research Institute, World Socialism Research Center

Li Shuqing 李淑清, China Agricultural University

The world today is witnessing an upsurge of mass and socialist movements, and China’s steady development has proved the advantage of socialism and created favorable conditions for the growth of the world socialist movement. Meanwhile, world socialism still lacks good platform for its propagation, whereas Western media has kept presenting distorted information about socialism and the Chinese society. As a result, socialism is considered distant and unrealistic among ordinary people in the West, with limited knowledge and a myriad of misunderstanding of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under such circumstances, it is suggested that effective communication platform such as forums and journals be established and more leftist scholars and political activists from the West be invited for participation. We should particularly strengthen the communication with countries of the Third World, former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, construct propaganda and education network to disseminate socialist ideas, increase the translation and promotion of the major documents on socialism with Chinese characteristics. In addition, we must choose the best forms of struggle in disseminating Marxism and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Studies on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

Several Theoretical Issues that Require Special Attentions in Macro-Economic Control (Part I) (48)

He Ganqiang 何干强, World Socialism Studies

In the 19th CPC report, it is stated that we will “develop new methods and improve macro-regulation, give full play to the strategic guidance of national development plans”. To develop new methods and improve macro-regulation so as to rectify major structural unbalance is an important theoretical and practical issue that we must tackle seriously at present. To accomplish this task, we need to establish a scientific understanding for macro-economic control in socialist market economy. Specifically, we need to stick to the basic tenet of historical materialism that social production determines circulation in the market and avoid confusing the dialectic relations between social production and market circulation with that between the government and the market. We should obtain a scientific understanding of the class nature of government functioning and uphold macro-economic control. We must ensure the dominant role of state-owned economy and incorporate foreign trade and the use of foreign investment into the macro-economic control. In addition, we must recognize the antisocialism nature of modern Western theories on market economy as well as the drawbacks of Western
theories on macroeconomic regulation, and correct the problematic tendency of blind copying of Western economic theories. We should consciously apply the principle and methodology in Capital to guide our macro-economic control, firmly defend the right to discourse of Marxist political economy, and resolve the problem of the structural imbalance in macro-economy at both the surface and root levels.

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**Strong Socialist Ideology as the Prerequisite of Strong State-Owned Enterprises**

Han Rusheng (p. 54)

The Marxist theory of ideology occupies an important position in historical materialism. Under certain specific conditions, ideology as something that is determined by the economic base may play a decisive role. It would be inevitably detrimental to the economic base if we ignore the practical and concrete determination of the material conditions and the economic base by ideology, and remain complacent with a “self-talking” at the abstract level of ideology. We should reject vulgar economism, which fails to recognize the significance of national ideology. With regard to China’s state-owned economy, a contest exists between the socialist ideology and the capitalist ideology, with the latter based on neo-liberal economics. Under such circumstance, we should pay close attention to the ideological construction so as to promote the development and growth of the state-owned economy.

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**Insights from History**

Understanding of Several Important Issues on the “Xinyang Incident”

Sun Jingxian ................................................................. (p. 62)

The “Xinyang Incident” occurring between the winter of 1959 and the spring of 1960 has been mystified for a long time and a myriad of erroneous statements have been broadly circulated, causing seriously damage to the image of the Party and State. Research and analysis of several important issues on this incident lead to a few clarification. First, the “Xinyang Incident” had two direct causes: (1) the great famine occurring once in a blue moon, and (2) the overestimated grain output by Xinyang prefectural Party committee and the consequent high quota of grain acquisition by the state, and the mistake of the prefectural committee in initiating a movement against “concealed output and its private distribution”. Second, the three investigations by the CPC Central Committee clarify the long-time overestimate of the number of the unnatural deaths during the “Xinyang Incident”. Third, during the “Xinyang Incident”, the Party cadres in Xinyang local government took all possible measures to resolve the problems of food shortage and diseases among the people. Fourth, having learned about the “Xinyang Incident”, the CPC Central Committee gave top priority to the issue, with a series of timely and instant measures of damage control and compensation so that the situation was quickly reversed in a very short time and more unnatural deaths were avoided. As a highly complicated issue, the “Xinyang Incident” can only be accurately represented with thorough research.

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On the Methodology of US Demographers for the Conclusion of “30 Million Starved to Death” during the Difficult Three Year Period

Huang Weidong 黄卫东, School of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Science and Technology of China

The idea that 30 million people were starved to death during the difficult three year period in China has long been accepted by Western academia as well as some Chinese scholars. An analysis of the data and methodology in the related reports by well-known US demographer Coale demonstrates acts of falsification in terms of artificially increasing birth numbers and exaggerating death numbers. His theory of “super linear deaths” for estimating “number of people starved to death” has also been seriously challenged in China and around the world for being neither objective nor scientific. The statement of “30 million starved to death” is therefore not a reliable one. With this case, we suggest that Chinese scholars and media should have their own testing of the “universally accepted” statements or assertions in the West with scientific method. We should avoid such blind trust of the West and the bias against the achievements of China’s socialist construction on that basis.

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Zhang Xueliang’s Comments on Chiang Kai-shek in His Memoire

Zhang Youkun................................................................. (p. 81)

After the “September 18 Incident” ¹, Zhang Xueliang followed Chiang Kai-shek’s non-resistance command, lost the Northeast China to Japan and resigned. His act gained him the notoriety of a “nonresistance general”. Based on Chinese and foreign historical documents such as Chronicle of Zhang Xueliang and Zhang Xueliang: An Oral History, this article clarifies the following points: First, Chiang Kai-shek was the actual initiator and decision maker of the non-resistance policy in the Northeast China after the “September 18 Incident”, while Zhang Xueliang was only an executor. Second, during the “Xi’an Incident” ², Zhang Xueliang forced Chiang Kai-shek to take the stance of ending the civil war and joining forces with the Communist Party of China to fight against the Japanese invasion. Even after being placed under house arrest by Chiang Kai-shek, he continued to play a special role in resolving the political crisis following the Xi’an Incident, and for that reason was highly praised by Mao Zedong; Third, in his oral history, Zhang Xueliang reprimanded Chiang Kai-shek for his overwhelming egotism, appointment of flunkies rather than talents, and dishonesty in relations with people. Chang also listed a series of his contradiction with Chiang’s policies on “resisting foreign invasion” and “achieving domestic stability”. Zhang Xueliang’s “bitter disparaging of Chiang Kai-shek’s personality and political career” in his oral history reveals the historical fact that his flattering remarks about Chiang Kai-shek and resentment against the Communist Party of China in the letters of his later years were in fact ill grounded statements against his will.

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¹ On 18 September 1931 a Japanese officer blew up a small amount of dynamite near a Japanese-owned railway line near Mukden (now Shenyang). The incident was designed by the Japanese military as a pretext for the invasion of Northeast China, known as Manchuria, in which Japan established its puppet state of Manchukuo six months later [Translator note].
² The Xian incident (December 12, 1936) was the arrest of the Commander-in-Chief of the Kuomintang, Chiang Kai-shek, in the area of Xi’an City by the generals Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng. They demanded to stop the civil war and join the United Front with the Communists against the Japanese aggression [Translator note].