

Mao Zedong's Peasant thought during the New Democratic Revolution: The Basis, Main Contents and Contemporary Enlightenment

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Abstract. China is a large agricultural country, and farmers and their problems have always played an important role in the development of Chinese society. During the period of the new democratic revolution, Mao Zedong scientifically explored the problem of farmers and inherited and innovated Marxist peasant theory. Studying and studying Mao Zedong's peasant thought during the new democratic revolution is conducive to implementing the spirit of the Party's Central Rural Work Conference and promoting agricultural and rural modernization.

Keywords: The Period of New Democratic Revolution; Mao Zedong; Peasant Thought.

1. Form the Foundation

Any ideological theory does not come into being out of thin air, its formation depends on certain social practice, is deeply restricted by the conditions of material production, and will also be infected and influenced by previous theories. Mao Zedong's peasant thought in the period of new democratic revolution is no exception.

1.1. The Peasant Theory of Marxist-Leninist Classical Writers

According to Marx and Engels, "the natural productivity of agricultural labor (including simple gathering, hunting, fishing, animal husbandry, etc.) is the basis of all surplus labor." and all labor is first and foremost for the purpose of occupying and producing food. "Agricultural labor provides living resources for human survival, and workers engaged in any other production have to rely on agriculture to meet their food needs. Only when the basic living materials of human beings are sufficient and labor productivity reaches a certain level, can excess labor be put into other production. As the main body of agricultural production, farmers are the most important part of the people and play an important role in the development of human society. Any ruling class must pay attention to the problem of farmers. According to the viewpoint of Marx and Engels, Mao Zedong realized that farmers are the main force of Chinese society, and the problem of farmers is the key issue related to the success or failure of the Chinese revolution. Marx and Engels believed that the self-sufficient mode of production of the small-scale peasant economy made the peasants "struggle harder and harder to maintain their small piece of precarious land, and the more stubbornly they clung to this small piece of land." this concept of private ownership leads to the dispersion of farmers. Farmers who do not have a common class consciousness are naturally unable to protect their own interests in their own name. "they cannot represent themselves and must be represented by others." Mao Zedong used Marx and Engels'in-depth analysis of the limitations of the peasant class, through a large number of rural investigations, also saw the backwardness, dispersion and conservatism of Chinese farmers and agricultural mode of production.

1.2. The Practice of Struggle in Rural Revolutionary Base Areas

The 1987 meeting established the general policy of the agrarian revolution and armed resistance against the Kuomintang reactionaries, and the Chinese Communists, represented by Mao Zedong, decisively abandoned their plan to attack Changsha in the light of the balance between the enemy and



our forces. the main direction of the uprising was shifted from the cities to the countryside and the Jinggangshan revolutionary base area was established. After that, other armed forces have also been transferred to rural areas, and have established more than a dozen rural revolutionary base areas. With the development and change of the struggle practice in the rural revolutionary base areas, the peasant problem has become the primary issue of the Chinese revolution, and the essence of the peasant problem is the peasant land problem, and the agrarian revolution has become the central content of the Chinese revolution. The countryside is the main strategic base of the Chinese revolution, the agrarian revolution of the peasants is the central content of the Chinese revolution, and the armed struggle is the main form of struggle of the Chinese revolution. The practice of agrarian revolution, armed struggle and the construction of base areas made Mao Zedong's peasant thought continuously developed and perfected.

1.3. Mao Zedong's Personal Profound Peasant Plot

Mao Zedong was born in the countryside and lived in the countryside. He had natural pity and sympathy for the peasant class. Taught by his mother, Mao Zedong took pity on the weak and often sympathized with and understood the peasants. "the politics of new democracy is essentially empowering the peasants." "now is the time for 'uphill doctrine,' when people hold meetings, handle affairs, attend classes, publish newspapers, write books, and perform plays on the top of the mountain. In essence, they are all for the peasants." Mao Zedong believes that China's revolutionary literature and art should express and reflect the demands and will of the peasants. Mao Zedong believed that the image of toil of the lower classes should appear in books and on the stage. Mao Zedong's strong peasant integrity also affected his informed behavior with the nature of a farmer and guided him to open up an immortal revolutionary cause in the ancient soil of China.

2. Main Contents

Mao Zedong's peasant thought during the new democratic revolution is a scientific theory with huge content and complete system. Its main contents include: the peasant problem is the central issue of the Chinese revolution; educating the peasants to overcome the non-proletarian ideology; the peasants are the natural allies of the working class; and the land issue is the core of the peasant problem.

2.1. The Problem of Farmers is the Central Issue of the Chinese Revolution.

Mao Zedong believed that in semi-colonial and semi-feudal China, "the external imperialism and the inner ruling class are mainly oppressed and squeezed by the peasants." therefore, I always think that the small businessmen among the urban workers and students should get up and attack the comprador class. and directly deal with imperialism, the progressive working class, especially the leadership of all revolutionary classes. However, if the peasants did not have the privilege of overthrowing the patriarchal and feudal landlord class from the countryside, the warlords and imperialist forces would not have collapsed at all. Therefore, he pointed out: "the peasant problem is the central issue of the national revolution; if the peasants do not rise up to participate in and support the national revolution, the national revolution will not succeed; if the peasant movement does not act quickly, the peasant problem will not be solved; if the peasant problem is not properly solved in the current revolutionary movement, the peasants will not support this revolution." "most of the problems of the national revolution are to solve the peasant problem, and the rest are not as important as the peasant problem. It can be said that the Chinese national revolution is the peasant revolution." Since farmers account for the majority of China's population, if a country is to get rid of poverty and backwardness, it is necessary to solve the problem of farmers.

2.2. Educate Farmers to Overcome Non-proletarian Ideas

Mao Zedong believes that although farmers are culturally backward, they yearn for progress. They are small assets in reality and need to raise class awareness and revolutionary consciousness through education. In on the people's Democratic dictatorship, he once put forward that "the serious problem

is to educate the peasants". Farmers do not have nothing. Most farmers have more or less farm tools and funds to engage in self-sufficient small-scale peasant production, "not only to produce the agricultural products they need, but also to produce most of the handicrafts they need." Compared with the proletariat, the peasants are not firmly revolutionary, their ideological and cultural level is extremely low, they do not understand the nature, objectives and tasks of the Chinese revolution, and they do not understand the relationship between their own liberation and the liberation of the whole nation. They are backward small producers, so they need to overcome backward non-proletarian ideology through education. "Peasants are scattered individual producers and use backward means of production." compared with the proletariat, they are less disciplined, selfish, conservative and extreme, more focused on personal interests and lack of long-term political vision. As farmers have been deprived of their right to education for a long time, most of China's 90% uneducated people are peasants. Only by educating them and launching farmers' self-revolution to make them have long-term political vision, can we give better play to the role of farmers as the main force.

2.3. Peasants are the Natural Allies of the Working Class

As early as during the Great Revolution, Mao Zedong clearly pointed out that "most of the so-called national revolution is the peasant movement" and "the peasant problem is the central issue of the national revolution". The nature and characteristics of China's democratic revolution profoundly reflect the vital importance of the peasant issue in the democratic revolution and fundamentally explain the role of the peasant class in the United front of the worker-peasant alliance. In the new democratic revolution led by Communist Party of China, imperialism and the Chinese big landlords and big bourgeoisie brutally exploited and squeezed the Chinese people, which made the peasants' struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucracy even stronger. Although the Chinese working class is the most oppressed and the most rebellious, the agricultural economy occupies an absolute advantage in Chinese society, coupled with the small number of the proletariat and the weak struggle force. It is impossible to win the revolution by relying on the strength of the proletariat alone. In this case, the strong strength of the peasants and the strong advantages of the main body are revealed. Moreover, most of the proletariat developed from bankrupt peasants, and the two sides share a common goal of struggle and continuous social relations. Therefore, the peasants are the natural allies of the working class in the new democratic revolution.

2.4. The Land Issue is the Core of the Peasant Problem.

In the long-term revolutionary struggle, Mao Zedong pointed out that "the last requirement of farmers lies in the problem of land. If they do not get land, they will not support the revolution to success." "the content of China's peasant land problem is a poor peasant problem, and the central issue of the poor peasant problem is a land issue." Based on this scientific understanding, Mao Zedong led the vigorous agrarian revolution in rural areas, aroused the enthusiasm of farmers and promoted the development of the Chinese revolution. Although the land policies formulated during the Agrarian Revolution, the War of Resistance against Japan, the War of Liberation and after the founding of the people's Republic of China were different, they were all based on reality, analyzed specific problems, and sought positive measures to solve farmers' land problems. it's all for a better United front of the worker-peasant alliance. Although the land policies are different in different periods, the essence is to unite the peasants under the leadership of the Party and to seek happiness and interests for the broad masses of poor peasants. History has proved that whether the land problem of farmers is solved or not is related to the long-term stability and prosperity of the country. In the process of building a modern and powerful country, it is all the more necessary to solve the land problem of farmers, innovate land policies and promote rural revitalization.

3. Realistic Enlightenment

During the period of the new democratic revolution, Mao Zedong's exploration of the peasant problem enabled him to lead hundreds of millions of Chinese peasants to the victory of the revolution. His

peasant thought not only provides an important reference value for how to give full play to the main role of farmers to build a new socialist countryside with Chinese characteristics, but also provides new ideas for the study of farmers in the new era.

3.1. Attach Importance to the Problem of Farmers and Give Full Play to the Role of Farmers

Mao Zedong is a brilliant model for our party to carry out investigation and research. He once pointed out: "without investigation, there is no right to speak." And "if you don't make a correct investigation, you also have no say." In the course of his investigation, he kept finding problems and solving them. He went to the countryside for many times to conduct investigations to understand the actual living conditions of farmers, and wrote a collection of rural investigations such as "investigation report on Hunan Peasant Movement" and "investigation in search of Wushu". We should inherit Mao Zedong's fine practical character, carry forward the spirit of seeking truth from facts, greatly promote the style of investigation and research, correct our attitude, overcome subjectivism, and adhere to problem orientation. Only in this way can we have a profound understanding of the social status of Chinese farmers and correctly solve the problems of agriculture, rural areas and farmers. China is not only the most populous country in the world, but also a large country of farmers. At present, the scale and number of Chinese farmers also represent the most basic national conditions of China. The problem of farmers not only exists in the period of the new democratic revolution, but also can not be ignored in the modernization drive. In the new stage of social development, we should also correctly apply Mao Zedong's view of farmers during the new democratic revolution, adhere to the viewpoint of practice, and attach importance to and solve the problems of agriculture, rural areas and farmers. Chinese-style modernization actually includes the modernization of agriculture, rural areas and farmers. To solve the problem of farmers, we must pay attention to human factors and the dominant position of farmers. If the problems of farmers are not solved, Chinese-style modernization is not a complete modernization.

3.2. To Develop Rural Education and Improve the Cultural Quality of Farmers

Mao Zedong once said: "the serious problem is to educate the peasants." The current situation is still the same, farmers' education is affected by the level of rural infrastructure, the level of farmers' own cultural quality, agricultural production technology training and rural law education and other factors, there has been a certain lag. To educate farmers, we should first increase investment in rural basic education facilities and install a large number of rural education teachers, so that farmers can master certain scientific and cultural knowledge and become newcomers with certain cultural literacy. At present, under the condition of socialist market economy, there have been various social thoughts contrary to China's socialist ideology, which also affect and impact farmers' ideas and behavior patterns to a certain extent. Therefore, the party and the state should pertinently increase the education and guidance of socialist ideology to farmers, expand their political participation, publicize the line, principles and policies of the party and the state in a way that farmers like to hear and see, and enhance their scientific understanding. Enhance their concept of home and country. Secondly, we should pay attention to the vocational and technical training for farmers. Agricultural modernization is inseparable from the revolutionary factor of science and technology, so it is necessary to employ corresponding experts and vocational and technical trainers to train farmers in practical life skills such as planting and picking, so as to make farmers become practical talents who really understand and are good at using technology. It is also necessary to innovate the tools of production in rural areas to provide farmers with modern tools of production and improve agricultural productivity. In addition, the education of farmers is inseparable from the popularization of legal knowledge of farmers. Law is one of the important symbols of modern civilized society. Our country implements the basic strategy of governing the country according to law, and the concept of rule of law is gradually rooted in the hearts of the people. However, in some rural areas, farmers' legal awareness is still weak, and the construction of legal system still lags behind. The government and judicial organs should adopt various forms to popularize the legal knowledge of farmers, and combine the situations and examples

that may be encountered in farmers' life, so that farmers can learn to use legal weapons to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests.

3.3. Promoting the High-Quality Development of Agriculture and Improving the Lives of Farmers

To promote the high-quality development of agriculture, first of all, the party and the state should attach importance to the agricultural economy. It was the agricultural production that farmers engaged in solved the biggest food problem and supported the political development of the whole feudal country. Agricultural production provided a continuous stream of human, material and financial resources for revolutionary development. In the new era, agricultural production is also the source of food and clothing, the foundation of survival, and the foundation of the national economy. The party and the government should further increase financial investment and construction investment in agriculture and rural areas. Secondly, the party and the government should effectively organize farmers. Mao Zedong pointed out that only organized peasants have strength. Therefore, in order to better develop agricultural production and mobilize farmers' enthusiasm for production, the party and the government should organize farmers, give prominence to the cultivation of cooperatives based on family farms, and establish large farms and large farms. to realize the scale and industrialization of agricultural production. Finally, the party and the government should coordinate urban and rural development. During the period of the new democratic revolution, the binary opposition between urban and rural areas in China was very serious, and the degree of revolutionary development between rural and urban areas was extremely uneven. Starting from China's national conditions and concrete practice, Mao Zedong creatively put forward the revolutionary theory of "rural areas surround cities and seize political power by armed forces". At present, the party and the state should vigorously promote the policy of "leading the countryside by cities" and "leading farmers by industry", get rich first and get rich later, and gradually achieve common prosperity. In addition to promoting the high-quality development of agriculture, the party and the government should also pay attention to improving the lives of farmers, uphold the achievements of getting rid of poverty, prevent returning to poverty and accumulate poverty, pay attention to increasing farmers' income, and solve the practical interests that farmers are most concerned about and most directly concerned about.

4. Conclusion

Mao Zedong's unremitting exploration and scientific analysis of the peasant problem during the new democratic revolution still has important guiding significance and shines with true feelings in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under the new situation that the world has entered a great change not seen in a century, and in the process of promoting Chinese-style modernization, Mao Zedong's view on farmers is of great significance for how to comprehensively consolidate the United front of the worker-peasant alliance and solve the problems of agriculture, rural areas and farmers in our country. It is of great significance to protect the practical interests of the people and promote the construction of a modern agricultural power.

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