

Study on the Marxist Theoretical Character of Xi Jinping's Strategic Thought on Poverty Alleviation

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ABSTRACT

Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication contains a series of rich contents such as "Six Precisions", "Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures" and "Four Practical Measures". Among them, the strategic policy of "Six Precisions" fully embodies the scientific nature of Marxist theory; the strategic measures of "Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures" fully embody the practical nature of Marxist theory; the strategic requirements of "Four Practical Measures" fully embody the scientific nature of Marxist theory. The "Four Practical Measures" strategic requirements fully embody the affinity to the people of Marxist theory; the process of forming Xi Jinping's strategic thought on poverty eradication and attack embodies the contemporary character of Marxist theory. Xi Jinping's Strategic Thought on Combating Poverty manifests the scientific, practical, people's and contemporary nature of Marxist theoretical character, which is also the dialectical unity of theoretical logic, practical logic, realistic logic and historical logic, and is a concentrated embodiment of Marxist theoretical character.

Keywords: "Six Precisions", "Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures", "Four Practical Measures", Theoretical character.

1. INTRODUCTION

On 3 November 2013, Xi Jinping first introduced the concept of "precise poverty alleviation" during his research on poverty alleviation in Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hunan Province. On 18 June 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping held a forum for comrades in charge of the Party committees of some provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in Guizhou, stressing once again that "poverty alleviation and development is all about precision, and the key to success or failure lies in precision." [1] At this meeting, General Secretary Xi Jinping elaborated on the "Six Precisions" strategic guidelines and put forward the "Four Practical Measures" strategic requirements. On 27-28 November 2015, at the Central Working Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development, he also systematically elaborated on the "Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures" of strategic measures, further improving the basic strategy of precise poverty alleviation and

eradication. On 29 November 2015, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council adopted the "Decision on Winning the Battle against Poverty", which ensures that the rural poor will be lifted out of poverty by 2020, the most arduous task to build a moderately prosperous society in all aspects. The issuance of this decision marks the blowing of the call to charge in the battle against poverty, heralds the entry of China's poverty alleviation undertaking into a new stage of comprehensive implementation of the strategy of precise poverty alleviation, and marks the systematic formation of Xi Jinping's strategic thought on poverty eradication. On 18 October 2017, in the report of the 19th Party Congress, China's solemn commitment to insist on precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication and resolutely win the battle against poverty was again announced to the world, marking the maturation and deepening of Xi Jinping's strategic thought on poverty eradication. In his speech at the meeting between the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 19th

Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese and foreign journalists, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that “no one should be left behind in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects; no one should be left behind on the road to common prosperity. People should lift the efforts of the whole party and the whole country to resolutely complete the task of eradicating poverty and ensure that our promises are fulfilled.” Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty alleviation and development is a distinctive feature of the new era of China's poverty alleviation and development undertaking, manifesting the scientific, practical, people's and contemporary nature of Marxist theoretical character, a dialectical unity of theoretical logic, practical logic, realistic logic and historical logic, and a concentrated embodiment of Marxist theoretical character.

2. THE “SIX PRECISIONS” STRATEGIC APPROACH FULLY REFLECTS THE SCIENTIFIC NATURE OF MARXIST THEORY

Scientific nature is the excellent character of Marxist theory. In his speech to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marx, Xi Jinping pointed out that “Marxism is a scientific theory that has creatively revealed the laws of human social development”. Xi Jinping's idea of “precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication” is based on a scientific understanding of the phenomenon of poverty, the causes of poverty and the laws of poverty eradication. The core meaning of the idea of “precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication” lies in “precise”. The word “precise” fully reflects the scientific nature of Marxist theory. In terms of specific content, the “precise” of “precise poverty alleviation and poverty eradication” mainly includes six aspects, namely, precise support objects, precise project arrangements, precise use of funds, precise measures to households, precise assignment of personnel to villages, and precise results of poverty eradication.[2] The six “precise” strategic guidelines set out the specific requirements for poverty alleviation work, while also specifying the results to be achieved and the goals to be achieved.

The six “precise” work requirements are a unified organic whole, reflecting the scientific nature of Marxist theory. Among them, the “precise support objects” require the authorities at all levels to carry out research work such as building a file and card for poor households and accurately

identifying the poor population, so as to scientifically solve the problem of “who to help”; The requirement of “precise project arrangement and precise fund use” requires competent departments at all levels to formulate and introduce relevant policies for targeted poverty alleviation and poverty alleviation, systematically formulate assistance plans, reasonably plan and use assistance funds, and scientifically solve the problem of “how to scientifically assist”; The requirement of “precise measures to households” requires competent departments at all levels to adhere to implementing policies based on human factors and local conditions, adopt different assistance policies for different causes and types of poverty, and scientifically solve the problem of “how to provide precise assistance”; The requirement of “precise dispatching of personnel in the village” requires all levels of competent departments to select the first secretary and work team stationed in the village, leverage the intelligence and subjective initiative of assistance personnel, establish a list of assistance, and scientifically solve the problem of “who will assist”; The requirement of “precise poverty alleviation results” requires competent departments at all levels to improve corresponding supervision mechanisms, audit mechanisms, and target assessment mechanisms, and scientifically evaluate the issue of “how well assistance is provided”. The six “precise” guiding principles have made specific work requirements from various aspects such as precise identification, project planning, fund utilization, project implementation, personnel selection and selection, and effect testing, both in terms of institutional design and practical implementation; it is both process management and target assessment, forming a complete chain of assistance for China's poverty alleviation cause in the new era, and is an inseparable and complete theoretical system, shining with the scientific light of Marxist theoretical character. Therefore, from a theoretical perspective, the strategic policy of “Six Precisions” fully reflects the scientific nature of Marxist theoretical character.

3. THE STRATEGIC MEASURES OF “FIVE-PRONGED POVERTY ALLEVIATION MEASURES” FULLY REFLECT THE PRACTICALITY OF MARXIST THEORETICAL CHARACTER

Practicality is the excellent character of Marxist theory. Marx once said, “All social life is practical

in essence.”[3] The viewpoint of practice in the endnote is the basic viewpoint of Marxist epistemology, and practicality is the prominent feature that distinguishes Marxist theory from other theories. In his speech at the conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marx, Xi Jinping pointed out that “Marxism is a theory of practice that guides the people's actions to transform the world”. Xi Jinping's strategic thought on poverty alleviation and development runs through the entire process of poverty alleviation and development, and is a bright light for achieving the overall goal of precise poverty alleviation and eradication, guiding the overall development of poverty alleviation in China in the new era. At the Central Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development, Xi Jinping proposed the “Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures” of strategic initiatives and major paths, which are theories on how to carry out poverty alleviation practices and point the way and development direction for China's poverty alleviation and development endeavours.

The “Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures” strategic initiative is an effective way to implement Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication, reflecting the practical nature of Marxist theory. The “Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures” mainly refer to “developing a batch of people through supporting production and employment, relocating a batch of people through relocation, alleviating poverty through ecological compensation, covering the needs of a batch of people through social security policies, and alleviating poverty through developing education”. This initiative is an important step to implement Xi Jinping's idea of precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication in the new era, to innovate the poverty alleviation and development mechanism, to release reform dividends for poverty eradication and to win the battle against poverty. The work policy of the “Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures” emphasizes the implementation of poverty alleviation practices in different categories, with obvious regional characteristics and pertinence. It is a vivid practice of tailoring measures to local conditions, analyzing specific problems, and not focusing on one size fits all, identifying the root cause of the problem, and applying the right medicine to the case. It is a development of the past poverty alleviation development model and enriches the implementation path of the “five connections, ten haves, and three achievements”, which embodies

the sixteen character policy of “seeking truth from facts, adapting measures to local conditions, providing classified guidance, and precise poverty alleviation”, highlighting the rational planning, scientific layout, and precise methods. Therefore, from a practical perspective, the strategic measures of the “Five-pronged Poverty Alleviation Measures” fully reflect the practicality of Marxist theoretical character.

4. THE STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE “FOUR PRACTICAL MEASURES” FULLY REFLECT THE PEOPLE'S CHARACTER OF MARXIST THEORETICAL CHARACTER

People's character is an excellent character of Marxist theory. Marxism is a science about the proletariat and human liberation. In his speech at the conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of Marx's birth, Xi Jinping noted that “Marxism is the theory of the people, creating for the first time an ideological system for the people to achieve their own emancipation”. In the preface to the English edition of the “Communist Manifesto”, Engels pointed out that the proletariat can only liberate itself if it liberates all of humanity, and therefore the realization of the complete liberation of the people is the reality that Marxism has always been concerned with, and people's character has become the fundamental characteristic of Marxism. The “Four Practical Measures” strategic requirements are a key part of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication, specifically “practically implementing leadership responsibilities, practically achieving precise poverty alleviation, practically strengthening social cooperation, and practically strengthening grassroots organizations”. [4] The “Four Practical Measures” strategic requirements of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication are the winning formula for winning the battle against poverty and fully embody the people's character of Marxist theory.

The “Four Practical Measures” strategic requirements are an important guarantee for the implementation of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication, and fully embody the mass line and the mass view of the Communist Party of China. First of all, the working requirement of “earnestly implementing the leadership responsibility” is the full embodiment of the CPC's adherence to the mass line. The foundation of the

party's governance lies at the grassroots level, and leading cadres must not forget their original intentions, remember their mission, strive for the well-being and happiness of the people, so that the vast rural population can truly enjoy the results of reform, maintain the flesh and blood connection between the party and the people, and ensure the implementation of poverty alleviation plans. This is the original intention and mission of the CPC; Secondly, the work requirement of "effectively achieving targeted poverty alleviation" reflects the view of the CPC that everything is for the people. The poverty alleviation campaign must adhere to implementing policies based on human factors, local conditions, and types of poverty, distinguishing different situations, achieving targeted and precise drip irrigation, strengthening infrastructure construction in poverty-stricken areas, accelerating the elimination of development bottlenecks, fully reflecting the needs of the people, responding to their concerns, and safeguarding their interests, in order to ensure that poverty alleviation work achieves twice the result with half the effort; Thirdly, the work requirement of "effectively strengthening the social synergy" reflects the CPC's belief that the masses liberate themselves. The CPC has always adhered to the historical materialism, believed that the people created their own history, unleashed the masses, fully trusted and relied on the masses, united all forces that can be united, established the broadest united front, and fought for the realization of the broadest interests of the people. Therefore, on the path of poverty alleviation, widely mobilizing social forces, forming social synergy, and jointly supporting the cause of poverty alleviation, ensuring the overall progress of poverty alleviation work, is a concentrated reflection of the people's historical view; finally, the work requirement of "practically strengthening organizational construction" reflects the view that the CPC is responsible to the people. Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty alleviation requires that both party building and poverty alleviation should be grasped with both hands, that party building should be used to drive poverty alleviation, that the building of grassroots party organizations should be promoted in poverty alleviation and development, that a task force should be left behind for poverty alleviation in rural areas, and that a long-term poverty alleviation mechanism should be established in rural areas. To have successors in the work of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, and to steadily develop poverty alleviation work, is not only a need for poverty alleviation and development work, but also an

important way to cultivate, train, and select cadres, reflecting the foresight and mission of the Party Central Committee's institutional arrangements. Therefore, from a practical perspective, the requirements of the "Four Practical Measures" work fully reflect the people's character of Marxist theoretical character.

5. THE FORMATION OF XI JINPING'S STRATEGIC THINKING ON POVERTY ERADICATION AND THE CHANGES IN CHINA'S PHILOSOPHY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION FULLY REFLECT THE CONTEMPORARY NATURE OF MARXIST THEORETICAL CHARACTER

Contemporary nature is the excellent character of Marxist theory. In his speech at the conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marx, Xi Jinping pointed out that "Marxism is a constantly evolving and open theory that always stands at the forefront of the times". The history of the development of Marxism is the history of constantly absorbing all the outstanding ideological and cultural achievements in human history to enrich itself. Similarly, as the core of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication, the idea of precise poverty alleviation and eradication was not achieved overnight, but has undergone a development process of constant enrichment and deepening. Xi Jinping's idea of "precise poverty alleviation and poverty eradication" was gradually formed on the basis of the forty years of China's reform and opening up, and reflects a logical relationship in theory and practice with China's reform and opening up and economic development, which has evolved with the times.

Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication is rooted in China's reform and opening up and in the great practice of China's poverty alleviation endeavour. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, China's poverty alleviation efforts have roughly gone through five stages of development. The first stage is the stage of institutional change promoting poverty alleviation. In 1978, the household contract responsibility system, which was piloted in Xiaogang Village, Anhui Province, met the requirements of the times when farmers were eager

to quickly solve food and clothing problems. Therefore, this model was quickly popularized throughout the country. Farmers' enthusiasm for production was stimulated, rural productivity was greatly released, and rural poverty was greatly improved; the second stage is the government led poverty alleviation stage. The establishment of the State Council Leading Group for Economic Development in Poverty stricken Areas in 1986 marked the birth of poverty alleviation institutions led by the government and specifically guided by the government; In 1993, it was renamed as the Leading Group for Poverty Alleviation and Development of the State Council, with institutional poverty alleviation and standardized poverty alleviation as the main guiding principles for poverty alleviation work, laying the foundation for planned and organized poverty alleviation nationwide; The third stage is the "87 Poverty Alleviation Campaign" stage. In 1994, the country issued the "National 87 Poverty Alleviation Plan (1994-2000)", which aims to solve the basic problem of food and clothing for 80 million rural poor people within 7 years. The implementation of this plan marks the transition from relief poverty alleviation to development poverty alleviation, and also marks the beginning of a battle against poverty alleviation and development. The fourth stage is the poverty alleviation and development stage during the period of comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society. In 2001, the "Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2001-2010)" was issued. During this period, the focus of poverty alleviation was mainly on minority areas in the central and western regions, revolutionary old areas, border areas, and particularly impoverished areas, emphasizing the leading role of agricultural industrialization and the support for poverty alleviation through science and technology. On May 27, 2011, the "Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2011-2012)" was issued, shifting the focus of poverty alleviation and development from mainly addressing food and clothing issues to a new stage of consolidating achievements in food and clothing, accelerating poverty alleviation and prosperity, and narrowing development gaps. The fifth stage is the stage of poverty alleviation and development during the period of building a moderately prosperous society. Since the 18th Party Congress, Xi Jinping's idea of "precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication" has been gradually developed. In 2012, the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China first proposed the grand goal of building a moderately prosperous

society in all respects by 2020. In 2015, the "Decision on Winning the War of Poverty Alleviation" once again clarified that "by 2020, under current standards, all impoverished populations will be lifted out of poverty, all impoverished counties will be stripped of their hats, and regional overall poverty will be solved". [5] This marks the comprehensive launch of the targeted poverty alleviation strategy. China's five years of success in poverty alleviation have greatly enriched and consolidated Xi Jinping's idea of "precise poverty alleviation and precise poverty eradication". Thus, the formation and deepening of Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty alleviation fully demonstrates the contemporary nature of Marxist theory.

6. CONCLUSION

In summary, Xi Jinping's strategic thinking on poverty eradication is a high fit for the theoretical character of Marxism from the theoretical, practical, realistic and historical dimensions, and is a dialectical unity of theoretical, practical, realistic and historical logic, a concentrated embodiment of the theoretical character of Marxism.

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