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By Xulio Rios 19.10.2023

Xi Jinping and the Sinicization of Marxism



Sources: Rebellion

For the Communist Party of China (CCP), Marxism is part of the foundational ideological vademecum. Despite the changes in the policy implemented throughout its hundred years of existence, it has never abdicated it.

This continuity and coherence has coexisted with a firm desire to integrate it with the objective reality of the country. Strictly speaking, this is the foundation of the search for a path of one's own in order to make the revolution triumph first and then to complete the modernization following a pattern of socialist orientation. And with the passage of time, that trend has only become more pronounced.

The The October Revolution encouraged the spread of Marxism in China. Li Dazhao is recognized as a pioneer in this endeavor. in which figures such as Chen Duxiu, one of the intellectual leaders of the New Culture Movement. The Chinese revolutionary progressivism of the early 2023th century showed a deep sympathy for Marxist currents (CCP, 6: <>).

The Maoism has in the sinicization of Marxism an essential epitome. Invoking the need to correspond to the reality of the country, Mao suggested that it should take into account the peculiarities of China. The Chinese leader insisted on the need to start from the China's reality to get the agenda and policies right and irreversibly based its internal leadership on these coordinates in the face of those who postulated a certain dogmatic follow-up and blind to the orientations of someone else's matrix. To a large extent, the The defenestration of Wang Ming and the "28 Bolsheviks" staged That point and aside. The "correct Marxist line" was established at the Zunyi meeting (1935), and its rationale required the granting of priority to the unique characteristics of the Chinese revolution. The Seventh Congress (1945) held in Yan'an specified who it is to be decide which of the principles of classical communism are applicable to China.

The The adaptation of Marxism to the Chinese context was a guarantee of triumph of the revolution. "Seeking the truth in facts," established as "a fundamental point of view of Marxism and a fundamental requirement of the Chinese Communists to know and transform the world" (Xi, 2014: 31) was completed with a whole catalogue of political practices of original descent, from the From the mass line (from the masses to the masses) to critique-self-critique or the successive rectification campaigns, of strong ascendancy cultural. However, Maoism, openly anti-Confucian, It harassed some of the structural beams of Chinese culture.

Also Denguism, despite pushing policies that have often been associated with a certain deideologization that would have given wings to the liberalism, insisted on the defense of Marxism (Deng, 1987: 65). Its "socialism with Chinese characteristics" is an expression of of such theoretical innovation and would represent a the development of Marxism, not its abandonment.

The Deng Xiaoping's concern to develop the forces He himself pointed out that the issue "to which the greatest importance attributed to Marxism" (Deng, 1987: 67) was indicated also as a preposition of economic growth to economic growth. ideology. But Deng didn't really have any intention of abandoning Marxist ideology while prioritizing development because he believed that "socialism is called upon to end poverty" (Deng, 1987: 203) and that it was necessary and It is urgent to raise the standard of living progressively or to fail in the purpose of modernization.

To with the axiom of the four modernizations, formulated in the period of restoration after the Great Leap Forward, which Deng The priority was to establish a better material basis for the Chinese process as a manifestation of an "authentic Marxism". It wasn't about, Therefore, the alternative promotion of liberalism as a reaction to the extremism of the previous Maoist period, exasperated by the excesses of the Cultural Revolution. The Four inalienable principles (persisting on the socialist road, on the socialist road, on the People's Democratic dictatorship, in the leadership of the Party Communist and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought) were established to combat the "corrosive" action of the bourgeois ideology.

The Denguism led to greater pluralism in society than the CCP He decided to manage by shying away from any appeal to the struggle of tuition. It experienced its moment of splendour during Maoism.

In Consequently, in this period, the theoretical work prioritized the attention to aspects related to the characterization of the "primary stage of socialism" (Jiang, 2010); Therefore, the matters relating to economic construction or reform, and openness, whether we're talking about the market and its government, the real estate or distribution policies, among others, including the promotion of of democratization, they gained in relevance in the face of the need for It was urgent to provide a theoretical guide that would respond to the question of wave of experimentation promoted by the reform.

In the scientific conception of development suggested by Hu Jintao, It summarises this stage by addressing an overall and integrative vision of the precepts and experiences suggested by Denguism.

A "New Era" for Marxism

One of the most outstanding characteristics of Xiism (Ríos, 2021: 281) is the relevance given to the role of Marxism in the current and This is a decisive phase in the modernization process. On the occasion of the On the bicentennial of his birth, Xi himself went so far as to describe Marx as the greatest thinker of modern times.

Xi He has defined Marxism as "the soul of ideals and ideas." convictions of the Chinese communists" (Xi, 2021:105) and attributes the The CPC's historic success to the special attention paid to the ideological and theoretical training of its militants and cadres. To the to point out that the general principles of Marxism "remain totally valid," Xi calls for his incessant study but Its constant innovation, its continuous development and appeals to the opening of a new frontier to adapt Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times.

Yes Mao and Deng called for the adaptation of Marxism to reality Xi emphasizes the need for additional effort and to adapt it to the needs of the present age, in a moment of historic inflection of dizzying change in China and in the world. "Marxism will inevitably develop in the function of the progress of the age, practice, and science, not it will be invariable" (Xi, 2014: 28). These new realities must be serve to promote theoretical innovation.

The The purpose of renewing the commitment to Marxism is to manage this new reality by persisting in fidelity to the foundational ideological foundations. In addition, it is a reaffirmation of the CCP's legitimacy to lead the process and Encourage adaptation in both thick and thin strokes without This results in a change in its main orientation. And he claims be based on practical experience and not on "unfounded wishful thinking."

The Marxism, moreover, provides the ideological rationale for the CCP to continue to play its core and backbone role in society China, reinforcing its own authority. This process complements each other with the emphasis on "self-renewal", underpinned by a more strict observance of discipline and militant ethics as guarantor of service to the common good.

Xi in short, it reaffirms the usefulness of Marxism for China and, at the same time, reinforces the CCP's ideological eclecticism, including culture and Chinese civilization in a mosaic of influences that integrates its synergies as a shield against the penetration of the liberal ideology.

The Xi's remarks on the promotion of trust They can be inscribed in this desire to develop Marxist cultural theories in line with the pursuit of a strong ideological guarantee. And remember that Marxism cannot adapt to the Chinese context and the needs of the times without consider the root of traditional Chinese culture. The emphasis on This aspect is more noticeable than in its predecessors, although it has already been they pointed out ways in late Denguism (Hu Jintao).

The Xi Jinping Thought on Culture (in addition to those formulated on foreign policy, the State law, economics, environmental policy or defence national) and the "nine accessions" that it proposes have as a An essential substratum is the strengthening of the leading role of Marxism in the the ideological sphere.

International impact

The revaluation of Marxism that is currently being promoted in China may have major international consequences as it becomes which goes on to play a major role as a theoretical ingredient in the partisan diplomacy of the CCP.

One renewal of adherence to Marxism under the cover of the success of the process led by the CCP, necessarily translates into a the exaltation of adaptation to local conditions, the exercise of full sovereignty and the rejection of any form of political interference, i.e. the *URBI institution et orbi* of independence and self-decision. Both have been established by the CCP as a necessary conclusion of its own experience politics in the process of the revolution and also of the modernization.

The The CCP also undertakes the commitment to update Marxism (Xi, 2018: 76) on the basis that its own transition provides it with a better qualification to make original contributions to your development. And it also calls for broadening the vision to interpret changes in the world and investigate the issues that must be resolved, paying attention to the results of the study on Marxism outside China with a An inclusive approach that leverages the strengths of others.

The dialogue that the CCP can promote with other Marxist formations It is a variable that Xiism has actively promoted in recent years. And all indications are that this trend is going to develop to a greater extent.

In in the twenty-first century, a Marxism better adapted to society and the world Contemporary aspires to have a new opportunity to devise alternative policies that offer greater well-being and another direction to humanity. China's New Global Status and Its Commitment Leadership with this endeavor gives a certain endorsement to the ambitious scope of this purpose.

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