DOI: 10.23977/jsoce.2022.040513 ISSN 2616-2318 Vol. 4 Num. 5

The Historical Significance and Contemporary Value of Engels' Anti-poverty Thought

Guojun Yan¹

¹School of Marxism, Party School of Sichuan Committee of CPC, Chengdu, Sichuan, 610072, China

Keywords: Engels, anti-poverty thought, contemporary value

Abstract: This article intends to start from the analysis of the social background data of the content of Engels' anti-poverty struggle, based on the article "The Condition of the British Working Class" in the study of Engels, and intends to systematically analyze and analyze and deduce Engels' anti-poverty ideas. The basic formation and process of the connotation of struggle thought, expounds other main contents of Engels' anti-poverty struggle thought. Finally, combined with the main strategic goal put forward by the comprehensive completion of socialist modernization in our country today, it analyzes the main historical significance and social contemporary practical value contained in Engels' anti-rural poverty theory.

1. Introduction

National Engels made careful observations and discoveries through in-depth, comprehensive and detailed social research reports and in-depth field investigations, and found that the lower-class proletarian people in China living in a developed capitalist social environment were already living in extreme poverty and extreme poverty. In order to thoroughly find the deep-seated reasons that really caused the entire proletarian world to be in such extreme poverty, Engels pointed out: "Poverty is an objective and inevitable result of the emergence of a modern communist social system. There is a direct reason for the existence of a specific manifestation of poverty in the society, but the inherent internal cause of poverty cannot be found [1]". "And the immediate historical reasons for the tragic situation of the Russian working class should not be just that we should continue to search deeply for the root causes of social ills in our relatively small classes, but at the same time we should continue to Return to their entire Russian capitalist institutional structure and its own roots to search again." [2] That is to say, in Engels' thought of poverty, it is the current social system, that is, the capitalist system, that leads to the poverty of the proletariat. As for the root cause of poverty, he believes that we should go to the capitalist system itself to find it. Therefore, the capitalist system is the root cause of the poverty of the proletariat, and the poverty of the proletariat is essentially a kind of "institutional poverty".

2. The basic content of Engels' anti-poverty thought

2.1 The degree of class poverty

In the life of capitalist society, the activities of the proletariat's struggle for poverty are various, and will change constantly due to a certain time, place and conditions. When classic writers take it as an economic category to summarize the slave status of the proletariat in capitalist society, they have given it a rich meaning far beyond the literal meaning. This category, used at different times and on different occasions, is a generalization or synthesis of various factors that marked the slave status of the proletariat at that time and place. Therefore, the specific expressions naturally vary according to the actual situation, but some content is always consistent. The most important sign of the poverty of the proletariat is the separation of laborers from the means of production and the loss of production and living conditions.[3] Other factors that marked workers' slave status. For example: poor working parents could not support their children and were forced to "secretly kill children and give them opiates" [4] and so on.

The above-mentioned specific descriptions of workers' material life and working conditions have largely become history in today's major capitalist countries. However, these words written in blood are still precious materials for the study of Engels' anti-poverty ideological position, viewpoint and method. These materials illustrate that Engels' assertion that the poverty of the proletariat is "all poverty", as a high-level generalization of the countless facts of the oppression and exploitation of the proletariat and synthesis, still has great practical significance.

2.2 The way of poverty

As early as writing The Condition of the Working Class in England, Engels established the historical attitude that should be taken in the study of the condition of the proletariat, saying: "The order in which the various parts of the proletariat should follow naturally determines the above-mentioned the history of the emergence of the proletariat" [5]. After that, he warned readers with simple examples: to study the conditions of the proletariat in different countries and periods, it is necessary to carry out specific analysis based on the different economic conditions and living traditions of different countries. He himself wrote: "Workers earn only some bread and potatoes, while English workers eat beef every day, and can buy good roast meat." Despite this historical and traditional difference, according to the British The status quo and trend of economic development, it is inevitable that "workers suffer from widespread poverty" [6].

Engels pointed out: "The workers and slaves in England are the pariahs and the poor, who are the greatest and most respected and adored national people of our human beings, and those who can truly save our nation in the future are those people pointed out by England. They, they are still plastic material workers; even though no one has really been educated in the state's formal schools before, at least there is no prejudice in saying that they have learned anything, and they should still be strong in the future. Forces can continue to engage in our own greatest and most glorious national and national cause, and they should still have a bright future". [7] Engels also predicted that "the extremely high degree of concentration of the sources of information produced and the high degree of socialization in the labor practices of their production have reached such a level that they are almost completely incompatible or completely incompatible with the capitalist shell that constitutes them. This shell will soon be completely blown up and destroyed. The death knell of the capitalist state of private ownership will soon be sounded. The expropriator will soon be expropriated.[8] "Engels' research on proletarian poverty is also very clearly manifested in their courage and good at revising or even abandoning certain outdated or the materials, viewpoints and conclusions that have been proved to be wrong in practice are replaced by new materials, new

viewpoints and new conclusions that are in line with the actual situation. This is the key to the strong vitality of Mann's poverty theory.

3. The historical significance of Engels' anti-poverty thought

3.1 Revealing the true status of the British proletarians

The book "The Condition of the British Working Class" has made a very profound description and description of the fact that the living conditions of the British working class have deteriorated. Engels' analysis is extremely clear and sharp at the same time .[9] He said: "Let us see what the workers themselves have become, who are living in such conditions, what kind of people are they, what are their physical, intellectual and moral conditions ."[10] Engels clearly pointed out in the article that the proletariat is a suffering class, they drink, indulge in sex and even commit crimes, everything is the result imposed on them by the social system, and It is the capitalist system that makes them suffer. Engels exposed the bourgeoisie's mercenary and money supremacy under the protection of the law. Engels used what he saw, heard and read about the conditions of the English working class to reveal to us the true condition of the English proletariat.

One of the main educational purposes of these articles is to try to make all the poor proletarians realize that the extreme poverty of their country is only caused by the capitalist system, and their main enemy is precisely the big bourgeoisie, the national interests of the bourgeoisie are always fundamentally opposed to the individual social interests of these proletarians, and the bourgeoisie will always simply treat the proletarian himself as an item and as the public property of his own country.

3.2 Guiding the labor movement

Engels also pointed out: "If the working class does not fight against the bourgeoisie, it is impossible for them to get rid of the tragic status quo. "[11] In the end, it developed into a change It became a joint use of all kinds of bloody violence, smashed various production machines, destroyed various factories, etc.; then it developed to the later free association, and various trade union alliances were established; and then there were Strikes and struggles of all kinds and freedom for national political status and elections. However, because the petty bourgeoisie has not yet been able to fully recognize a deep social root cause of the widespread poverty and misery in their own country and has always lacked objective and concrete practical guidance for the application of modern democratic scientific theories and methods, these reform movements They all failed completely or even died prematurely. Engels's proposition completely abandoned the theory of bourgeois feudal moralism about the relationship between the utopian theory of the proletariat and the struggle of the proletarian socialist camp, which was first put forward by Owen and others, and awakened all the basic classes of the proletarian revolutionary camp throughout China I believe that in the future, only by combining the interests of the proletariat with the interests of the Western Soviet socialist countries and overthrowing the old tsarist capitalist system can my country's socialist working-class political party truly and completely get rid of my current class predicament.[12] Through his analysis of the tragic life of the British proletarians, Engels made the proletarians realize the source of their own poverty, and also guided them to unite and push forward their original intentions, providing a realistic basis for guiding the labor movement and making early preparations for the birth of Marxism.

4. The contemporary value of Engels' anti-poverty thought

4.1 To eliminate poverty, we must adhere to the socialist road and improve and perfect the social system

Through the analysis of the causes of proletarian poverty under the capitalist system, Engels believed that the proletariat can only get rid of poverty completely in a society based on public ownership. Although Engels's poverty theory analyzes poverty under the capitalist system, which is institutionally different from my country's poverty problem, Marx's explanation of the institutional root of poverty still has an important inspirational effect on my country's anti-poverty practice. Although the people in ancient my country completed the transformation of the three major capitalists, they established and perfected the entire socialist system, eliminated all exploitation, and at a more fundamental level also eliminated the historical root cause of poverty in China. It also provides a fundamental institutional guarantee for poor groups to get rid of poverty and become rich. However, the theoretical practice of scientific socialism such as Marx tells us that the development and perfection of the socialist system itself and the maturity of the system are a long and arduous long-term historical process. It is still short, and there are not many mature experiences and achievements of realistic development to learn from, so that there are indeed many immature systems in the various systems that exist in my country today, which are not suitable for further improvement and improvement. Years of rich practice and experience in poverty alleviation and anti-poverty alleviation have also told us that in today's my country, in various specific forms of social and economic systems, there are still factors that may generate and exacerbate poverty, such as the traditional household registration management system, social security system and social medical insurance system, which seriously hampered the exertion of the superiority of the socialist system, and also seriously affected the poverty alleviation of the poor. Therefore, my country's future anti-poverty practice must, while adhering to the socialist road, constantly improve and perfect my country's social system, eliminate the institutional factors that cause poverty, provide better institutional guarantees for poverty-stricken groups to get rid of poverty, and prevent new the emergence of institutional poverty makes it gradually get rid of the torture of poverty, and finally realize the common prosperity of the people.

4.2 Anti-poverty plans in socialist countries must start from various aspects

Engels' analysis of the extreme poverty in the Russian proletarian society shows that the social poverty of the proletarian country is not limited to the extreme general lack of public material wealth, but also extreme in cultural knowledge, spiritual beliefs and political morality. lack of poverty. This can only show that the work of the anti-poverty movement involves all aspects, so the arrangement of the corresponding plan must be carried out in the implementation of the work plan of the anti-poverty work from other specific aspects at the same time, in order to ensure the receipt of the "multi-pronged" plan Effect.

China has always paid special attention to the implementation of social poverty alleviation projects, especially after the establishment of the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Reform and Development and Opening-up, the national poverty alleviation plan implemented during the period of China's plan has begun to make great strides to go deep into rural areas. The overall development strategy of poverty alleviation my country will gradually gradually transform from the previous simple social relief-type national social poverty alleviation fund project to rural social development-type social comprehensive poverty alleviation, and strive to gradually change from our original "other-help" poverty alleviation plan. Gradually transformed into my country's original "self-help" project. In response to the general lack of material security for the

poor, the Chinese government has mainly adopted a number of measures to alleviate poverty, such as financial discounts and loans, donations to work as a relief fund, and central government poverty alleviation loans to support agriculture and poverty alleviation. Educational aid for poverty alleviation, science and technology information for poverty alleviation and knowledge are carried out in various forms. In addition, the highly universal requirements for the selection of the influence scope and characteristics of the anti-poverty measures in China's rural areas and the highly multi-faceted requirements for the selection of the content and forms of my country's anti-poverty-related policies will also require awareness of my country's anti-rural poverty that is effective in my country and at the current stage. Relevant policy measures should also be integrated from more aspects and angles. From the perspective of various cultural levels of human society and economy, it can objectively enhance the struggle and ability of the Chinese urban and rural impoverished individual ethnic groups to fight against coercion and poverty.

4.3 The theoretical source of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition on poverty alleviation

The Marxist proletarian anti-exploitation and poverty educational reform ideology is a set of educational reform ideological weapons that can guide the proletariat of our country to turn over as soon as possible to realize the comprehensive economic liberation of our country and get rid of its long-term passive poverty. This set of educational revolutionary ideological weapons Since the middle of the 19th century in the West, the developed capitalist developed countries have been brutally exploiting their domestic rural working class and have gradually developed a process of intensification, which has caused them to possess a large number of material production activities and technical materials that have no real value. of laborers feel increasingly impoverished. The papers published in 1842 and 1843 by Marx were also the fourth consecutive commentary on the issue of the long-term life and poverty of British social workers under the British capitalist system. A series of practical problems, and then the author published the article "Economics and Philosophy Manuscripts in 1844" also discussed this important historical issue and made further in-depth analysis or analysis. Re-established the philosophical foundations of a British Marxist bourgeois and anti-social poverty ideological position. Marx pointed out that in the modern Western capitalist countries, there are finally three basic states of society in which the capitalist system has developed into a capitalist system: a state of social decline, a state of continuous increase in wealth, in which the bourgeoisie and communist countries have reached the social level. In the highly prosperous state and the peak state, the technical materials and other economic wealth of production are almost always tightly grasped or controlled in the hands of these proletarian capitalists, while the working class lives in a state of social poverty. It is almost unchanged, and business owners can often choose to maintain the basic wage of the labor force for a long time or control it at a relatively low wage level, thereby effectively reducing and improving the labor base. The cost of production has obtained more sources of labor wealth; but for an ordinary Chinese worker group, its more important consequence is undoubtedly the further intensification of its further exploitation and the increase to the an overall level of poverty and exploitation in terms of ordinary proletarian labor.

Marxist political economy anti-human poverty socialist dialectic thought is a profound, systematic and accurate preliminary revealing and manifesting that the feudal capitalist class existing under the background of the world feudal monopoly capitalist system is exploiting and oppressing the labor of the proletarian people of the third world. Its profound inner essence has also been preliminarily revealed and manifested as one of the real inner causes of the society that has caused the widespread poverty of the world proletariat - the production of the bourgeois world is the private ownership of large-scale peasant materials. This also means that only by truly relying on the

production in the most primary stage of socialist construction can we build the basic public ownership of socialist materials and social production can fully enable the vast number of Chinese laborers and proletarian people in our country to truly get rid of the basic Food, clothing and poverty, only by relying on the figures of the Communist Party of China, which represents the level of advanced material and technological productivity in the world today, can we truly and thoroughly lead all the people of our country to jointly realize the construction of a socialist country and achieve happiness and prosperity together., and only relying on our vigorous efforts to speed up the development of society, revitalize the economy, and lead the entire Chinese people to a more beautiful, prosperous, healthy, civilized, and happy social modernized social life is the ultimate aspiration of the Chinese people. The idea of Marxist proletarian anti-social poverty is actually based on the fact that my proletarian party has gradually summed up, refined, generalized and developed it in my early days of engaging in the long-term great revolution of the proletariat and practicing the great struggle. The core viewpoint of this work is to promote the free emergence and rapid development of labor democracy and socialist production in pursuit of the true liberation of all human society, and to call on the people to develop the revolutionary and armed movement of the proletariat of the vast number of workers, peasants and laborers in our country. The idea of changing all feudal production ownership and private ownership of materials is the source of anti-social poverty, and establishes the real basic national material in the new stage of socialism, in which the main body of production of the people of our country and the public ownership of national materials are the main body. The socialist system insists that only by relying on the Communist Party for unified ideological leadership, so that all Chinese Chinese will eventually become the great national masters of our own era, and will be able to work freely and with independent will, and constantly strive to seek freedom. and the pursuit of self-development and self-satisfaction, and only thus can we finally realize the socialist anti-poverty that realizes the great revolution of our entire proletariat and realizes the true liberation of all human beings from another fundamental political goal.

Our country has really implemented our so-called poverty alleviation must go to households, poverty alleviation work must help all rural people, improve the quality of the entire rural poverty alleviation process, and achieve "true poverty alleviation" and "true poverty alleviation". In order to truly resolutely prevent serious phenomena such as preventing educated people from returning to poverty, my country has also begun to implement poverty alleviation through the education industry. Education is another important foundation that can save a nation's modernization and national economic strength. Getting rid of poverty and even getting rich is not all that we do in a certain generation. In order to completely and truly prevent this serious poverty, we can only rely on intergenerational transmission. It is even more necessary that we work hard to get rid of poverty from the level of national spiritual ability. Through books, I have conducted ideological and theoretical training research and ideological and moral education for some people who have dropped out of school in remote and poverty-stricken ethnic minority areas, out-of-school, homeless, poor children, young intellectuals, etc. Progress has cultivated a timely and useful talent, not only in the near future, it is more beneficial to further improve the family situation of poor and out-of-school children out of school, but also to create a new theoretical high level that expands the treasure house of my country's anti-poverty cultural thought under the contemporary socialist system, deepens, improves and It has enriched and expanded the treasure house of my Marxist modernization anti-poverty theory and thought.

5. Conclusion

At the closing ceremony of the Poverty Reduction and Development Forum held by General

Secretary Xi Jinping in 2015, General Secretary Xi Jinping's keynote speech made a firm statement to all the people of the world for the first time that the Chinese nation should continue to strengthen the peaceful cooperation between the North and the South, in order to jointly promote the global construction into a real realization. Without the persistent and loud call for the goal of a more harmonious community with a shared future for mankind on the basis of permanent and persistent poverty and development of mankind, and at the same time solemnly declared and made a firm and solemn commitment to the work of global poverty reduction cooperation, these The incisive and new expositions are all concrete and vivid images of General Secretary Xi Jinping's refinement and sublimation of Marxist anti-poverty ideas, and they are also a major spiritual contribution of the Chinese Communist Party to the development of Marxism and anti-poverty ideas in China.

References

- [1] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.561.
- [2] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.42.
- [3] Marx: Outline of Criticism of Political Economy (People's Publishing House, China1978), p.182.
- [4] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 23(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.438.
- [5] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.299.
- [6] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 1(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.555.
- [7] Marx: Marx and Engels Collected Works: Vol.1 (People's Publishing House, China 2009), p.628.
- [8] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.267.
- [9] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 23(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.708.
- [10] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 1(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.408.
- [11] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.500.
- [12] Marx: The Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Vol. 2(People's Publishing House, China1995), p.527.