

Marxist Material View and Its Enlightenment¹

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ABSTRACT: Marxist material view is not a simple continuation of old materialism, but a revolutionary leap based on practice. It is dialectical, practical and thorough materialism. Scientifically answered questions about the nature of the world, implemented the principles of materialism into the social and historical fields, and achieved a great revolution in the history of philosophy. The Marxist material view has immeasurable important enlightenment for our theoretical research, social practice and personal growth, and provides us with a powerful ideological weapon for understanding and transforming the world.

KEYWORDS: Marxist material view; objective reality; dialectical materialism; seeking truth from facts

Marxist material view is the cornerstone of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. It is not a simple continuation based on old materialism (such as ancient naive materialism or modern metaphysical materialism), but a revolutionary leap based on practice. Learning to understand the Marxist material view has important enlightenment for us.

I. Basic contents of Marxist material view

Lenin scientifically defined matter in "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism": "Substance is a philosophical category that marks objective reality. This objective reality is perceived by people through their senses. It exists independently of our senses and is copied, photographed, and reflected by our senses."

This definition emphasizes the objective reality of matter, clearly distinguishes matter from consciousness, and points out that matter does not depend on human consciousness, exists independently of human consciousness, but can be reflected by human consciousness. The Marxist view of matter overcomes the limitations of old materialism in reducing matter to specific material forms or structures, and summarizes the essential characteristics of matter from a philosophical perspective, laying a solid philosophical foundation for scientific understanding of the world and transformation of the world. It not only emphasizes the objective reality of matter, but also pays attention to the important role of human practice in the process of understanding matter. It believes that human beings can continuously deepen their understanding of matter through practice.

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Marxism adheres to a thorough gnosticism position and believes that everything in the world can be known. Human beings can gradually explore and master the laws of matter through practice and thinking activities, thereby achieving the unity of subjectivity and objectivity. This kind of knowability is not only reflected in the field of natural sciences, such as the laws of physics and chemical formulas, but also in the field of social sciences, such as the laws of social development and the mechanism of economic operation. The Marxist material view emphasizes that understanding is a process of continuous deepening. With the deepening of practice and the development of science, mankind's understanding of the material world will become more comprehensive and profound.

To fully and accurately understand matter, we must grasp the relationship between matter and motion, the relationship between matter and time and space, and the relationship between matter and consciousness.

1, *The relationship between matter and motion.* Marxism believes that movement is the fundamental attribute and mode of existence of matter. There is no matter without motion, and there is no motion apart from matter. Whether it is the movement of macroscopic celestial bodies, such as the rotation of the solar system, the expansion of the Milky Way, or the vibration of microscopic particles, such as the transition of electrons and the collision of atoms, they are all in a state of eternal change and development. This perspective not only reveals the world as a universally connected and evolving dynamic whole, but also emphasizes the diversity and complexity of movement. Different forms of movement, such as mechanical movement, physical movement, chemical movement, biological movement and social movement, together constitute a rich and colorful material world.

2, *The relationship between matter and space-time.* Marxism believes that the existence form of matter is represented by time and space. Time is the persistence of material movement, and space is the extension of material movement. As the basic forms of material existence, the two are inseparable from matter, and together they constitute the coordinate system for our understanding of nature. The one-dimensionality of time and the three-dimensionality of space make the material world show infinite diversity and complexity in the interweaving of time and space. Whether it is the evolution of the universe or the evolution of living things, they are inseparable from the constraints and influences of time and space. The Marxist view of matter provides an important theoretical tool for us to understand the nature of the material world through a profound interpretation of time and space.

3, *The relationship between matter and consciousness.* Marxism's understanding of the relationship between matter and consciousness is profound and unique, forming the core cornerstone of its philosophical system. Marxism believes that matter is a philosophical category that marks objective reality. This objective reality is not an abstract existence, but concrete and perceptible. It exists independently and does not depend on our feelings, and is perceived, copied, photographed and reflected through our sensory organs - such as vision, hearing, touch, etc. In other words, matter is real. Whether we are aware of its existence or not, it is there, operating and developing according to its own laws.

Consciousness is the product of the development of the material world to a certain stage. Specifically, it is the function and attribute of a highly complex substance such as the human brain. As the material basis of consciousness, the human brain processes and responds to external stimuli through complex neural activities and biochemical reactions, thereby forming consciousness. Consciousness is not only a simple reflection of the external world, but also a subjective image of objective existence, including perception, memory, thinking, emotion and other psychological activities.

The idea that matter determines consciousness is one of the basic principles of Marxist philosophy. The decisiveness of matter is reflected at many levels: first, the generation of consciousness cannot be separated from the material foundation. Without the complex material structure of the human brain, consciousness is impossible;

secondly, the content of consciousness is not generated out of thin air, but comes from the material world, and is the reflection and processing of natural and social phenomena; finally, the existence and development of consciousness must depend on material conditions. Whether it is physiological needs or social environment, changes in material conditions will directly or indirectly cause changes in consciousness.

However, Marxism does not view consciousness as a passive product, but rather as an active reaction to matter. This reaction is mainly reflected in the following aspects: first, correct consciousness can guide people to take correct actions, help people scientifically understand and transform the world, thereby promoting social progress and development; second, wrong consciousness can mislead people's practice, lead to the failure of actions, and even bring negative impacts. Therefore, in the process of understanding and transforming the world, we must respect the decisive role of matter, and at the same time, we must give full play to the active role of consciousness and achieve the concrete historical unity of subjectivity and objectivity, theory and practice. This dialectical understanding not only reveals the intrinsic relationship between matter and consciousness, but also provides scientific methodological guidance for how to correctly handle the relationship between the two in practice. By deeply understanding and applying this principle, we can better grasp the nature of the world and promote the harmonious development of society.

II. The importance of Marxist material view

1, Laying the foundation for dialectical materialism

The Marxist material view overcomes the mechanical and intuitive defects of old materialism, and at the same time criticizes the erroneous tendency of idealism to exaggerate the role of the spirit. It pushes materialism to a new height and makes philosophy truly a scientific theoretical system about the real world. Through the systematic elaboration of matter, movement, time and space, and knowability, the Marxist view of matter laid a solid theoretical foundation for the formation and development of dialectical materialism. The establishment of this theoretical system not only provides rich ideological resources for the further development of Marxist philosophy, but also provides important methodological guidance for the construction of theories in other disciplines.

2, Adhere to materialist monism

The Marxist view of matter grasps matter from the unity of opposites between matter and consciousness, and clarifies the independence and origin of matter from consciousness, as well as the dependence and derivation of consciousness from matter. As a reflection of matter, consciousness cannot exist independently of matter, so consciousness cannot be the origin of the world.

3, Adhere to the active reflection theory and knowability theory

The Marxist material view believes that the objective existence of matter is a knowable object. Although there are still unknown things due to technological limitations, this does not mean that they are unknowable. Both the unknown world and the known world exist objectively. With the development of practice and science, human beings' understanding of the unknown world will continue to expand and deepen. There are only things in the world that are not yet known, and there is nothing that cannot be known.

4, Achieving the unity of materialism and dialectics

The Marxist view of matter believes that objective reality is the only characteristic of matter, which not only affirms the connection between philosophical material categories and the material structure theory of natural science, but also distinguishes them. Seeing commonality in individuality, finding absolute in relative, and discovering eternity in temporary embodies the profundity of materialist dialectics, overcomes the shortcomings of metaphysical materialism, and provides scientific thinking tools for analyzing complex problems.

5, Achieving the unity of the materialist view of nature and the view of history

Emphasizing the materiality of society is the key to the Marxist material view surpassing all previous old materialisms. The old materialism was materialistic in its view of nature, but fell into idealism in its view of history, attributing the development of social history to spirits, concepts, or the will of heroic figures. Marxism thoroughly implements the principle of materialism into the field of social history, revealing that society is material in nature. Material production practice is the basis of social existence and development. The first historical activity of mankind was to produce the material materials needed to meet the needs of food, clothing, housing and transportation. Geographical environment and population factors are the material prerequisites for social existence. The mode of production (the unity of productive forces and production relations) is the decisive force for social development. It is not dependent on human will and is an objective material relationship. Therefore, human society is an integral part of the entire material world. Although social laws involve human consciousness, they are essentially the same as natural laws and are objective and independent of human will. The Marxist material view reveals the materiality of nature and society, establishes materialist principles that unify the natural historical process, realizes the dialectical unity of the materialist view of nature and history, and lays the theoretical foundation for thorough materialism.

III. The Enlightenment Given to Us by Marxist Material View

The Marxist material view profoundly reveals that the essence of the world is material, and material is an objective reality that does not depend on human consciousness and can be reflected by human consciousness. This scientific conclusion provides fundamental ideological guidance and methodological enlightenment for us to understand and transform the world, which is specifically reflected in the following aspects:

1, insist on proceeding from reality and seeking truth from facts. The Marxist material view tells us that the material world exists objectively, and its existence and development are not dependent on human will. This requires that when we understand and deal with problems, we must respect objective facts, go deep into reality, conduct careful investigation and research, and accurately grasp the true appearance and development patterns of things, rather than starting from subjective assumptions, abstract principles, or personal likes and dislikes. Whether formulating policies, planning development, or resolving specific conflicts, we must take the objectively existing actual situation as the fundamental basis to achieve consistency between subjectivity and objectivity, and unity between theory and practice. Only in this way can we formulate correct plans that are consistent with reality, effectively solve practical problems, and promote the development of the cause. In the process of China's revolution and construction, "seeking truth from facts" has become a basic principle of the party, providing an ideological guarantee for the successful development of the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Whether it is the formation of Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents", the Scientific Outlook on Development, or the birth of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, they are all inseparable from the ideological line of seeking truth from facts. By emphasizing the importance of seeking truth from facts, the Marxist material view provides us with the fundamental method to correctly understand and deal with problems, and has become an important ideological weapon in promoting social progress.

2, establish the epistemology of dialectical materialism and proactively understand the world. The Marxist material view believes that matter can be understood, and human consciousness has initiative and can correctly reflect the objective material world through practice. This inspires us to actively exert our subjective initiative, have the courage to explore and understand unknown areas, and continuously deepen our understanding of natural laws, social laws and thinking laws. In the process of understanding, we must insist that practice is the only criterion for testing truth, and discover, test and develop truth through practice. At the same time, we should criticize idealism, adhere to materialism, and safeguard the scientific worldview and methodology in ideological struggles. We must oppose the epistemology of agnosticism and idealism. We must not only respect scientific knowledge and rational thinking, but also constantly revise and improve understanding in practice to achieve a

deeper and more accurate grasp of objective things, thereby providing scientific theoretical guidance for transforming the world.

3, insist on taking practice as the basis and actively transform the world. The Marxist material view emphasizes that practice is the historical premise for the differentiation of the material world into nature and human society, and is also the realistic basis for the unification of nature and human society. This means that human beings can not only understand the objective laws of the material world, but more importantly, they can use these laws to transform the world and meet their own needs through practical activities. This inspires us to closely combine understanding the world with transforming the world, using scientific theories as guidance, changing objective things through active practical activities, and creating more material and spiritual wealth. In the process of transforming the world, we must correctly handle the relationship between man and nature, respect the laws of nature, remind us to pay attention to environmental protection when developing the economy, and achieve harmonious coexistence between man and nature; at the same time, we must promote social progress and the all-round development of man by reforming unreasonable social systems and production relations.

4, we must correctly view the relationship between material and spirituality and promote the coordinated development of material civilization and spiritual civilization. The Marxist material view believes that material is primary and spirit is secondary. Material determines spirit, and spirit has a reaction to material. This view enlightens us that in the process of social development, we must attach great importance to the construction of the material foundation, vigorously develop productivity, continuously improve the material living standards of the people, and provide a solid material guarantee for the construction of spiritual civilization. At the same time, we cannot ignore the construction of spiritual civilization. We must vigorously promote advanced culture, strengthen ideological and moral construction, improve the scientific and cultural quality and ideological and moral level of the entire nation, and give full play to the role of spiritual civilization in promoting material civilization. Only by adhering to "grasping both material and spiritual civilization and being strong with both hands" can we achieve comprehensive social progress and comprehensive human development, and build a harmonious society with rich material and noble spirit.

5, reveal the material basis of social relations and pursue the true liberation of people. Marx pointed out that human nature is "the sum of all social relations", and these social relations are ultimately determined by the mode of material production. This perspective requires us to penetrate the ideological fog and confront the fundamental basis of existence. For example, seemingly personal phenomena such as career choices, consumption habits, and values are actually closely related to the industrial structure and economic system of the era. Acknowledging the decisive role of material conditions is not fatalism but sober realism, helping us to identify the social structures that bind us.

The Marxist material view does not imprison people in material cages, but reveals how the cages are constructed and finds ways to smash them. True freedom is not the illusory spiritual freedom separated from material needs, but the liberation of human beings from forced labor on the basis of extremely rich material wealth, and the freedom to develop talents according to interests and wishes. Labor will no longer be a means of livelihood, but "the first need of life" and become artistic and creative happiness. Only on this basis can the human spiritual world prosper and people become their own masters.

6, on the premise of respecting objective laws, give full play to subjective initiative. Respecting laws is a prerequisite for giving full play to subjective initiative. The objectivity of matter and laws require us not to act recklessly in anything we do. We must first understand and respect objective laws. Violation of laws will result in punishment, which has profound lessons in ecological environment issues (such as global warming) and economic construction (such as violation of economic laws). Taking full advantage of your agency is key. The material world is knowable, and its laws can be recognized and utilized. Therefore, we should not be slaves to objective

laws, but should accurately seek laws based on mastering them, actively, purposefully and plannedly transform the world and promote social progress. This also reflects the revolutionary and practical nature of Marxism.

In short, Marxist material view is dialectical, practical and thorough materialism. It scientifically answers the essential questions of the world, implements the principles of materialism into the field of social history, and realizes a great revolution in the history of philosophy. The principles of the material unity of the world, the principles of the dialectical relationship between matter and consciousness, and the principles of the unity of respecting objective laws and exerting subjective initiative revealed by it have immeasurable important enlightenment for our theoretical research, social practice and personal growth. It has provided us with powerful ideological weapons for understanding and transforming the world, and it still has fresh vitality and important guiding value. We must deeply understand and grasp the scientific connotation of Marxist material outlook, apply it to practical work and life, and continuously promote social progress and personal development.

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