

# Reflecting on The Ideological Revelations of The Communist Manifesto for The Present and Contemporary Times

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## Abstract

**How to understand the Communist Manifesto in the context of today's times, whether its theories are needed for the development of socialism, and whether capitalism will come to an end, as stated in the Communist Manifesto. How do you view the claim that the ideas in the Communist Manifesto have become theoretically obsolete after facing nearly two centuries of baptism? Is it still instructive for the present generation? Do we still need to study the theories in the Communist Manifesto for socialist countries, whether we have successfully embarked on the path to communism or not? For the capitalist countries, the Communist Manifesto and whether the communist society is just a flash in the pan and whether it can replace the capitalist society to finally succeed and complete the great social changes. These are the questions that need to be considered in rereading the Communist Manifesto.**

## Keywords

**Communal Declaration; Class Struggle; Proletariat.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

It has been 174 years since the publication of the Communist Manifesto in 1848, and the fact that it has been reprinted and translated into various languages must be of extraordinary significance. Although its length is brief, its content is very powerful and inspiring, and it is this programmatic document that has led the proletariat of the world to carry out the socialist revolutionary movement. The October Revolution in Russia truly transformed socialism from an idea to a reality, and thus inspired the proletarian revolution in China, which led us to the path of socialism. With the absence of the former Soviet Union as a major power in the socialist camp, China has become the current leader in adhering to socialism, while at the same time facing the ideological siege of Western capitalist societies. The trajectory of the international communist movement seems to have been seen in the 100 years since the Communist Manifesto, but after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Western capitalism led by the United States became stronger and stronger while international communism declined. With the absence of the former Soviet Union as a major power in the socialist camp, China has become the current leader in adhering to socialism, while at the same time facing the ideological siege of Western capitalist societies. The West is constantly trying to weaken our influence in the international community through various means such as cultural infiltration, economic suppression, and military encirclement, and claiming that capitalist society is a free and democratic social system rich in high human rights and that the so-called socialist and communist societies are mere pipe dreams. In the face of this series of questioning and suppression, it is particularly important to study the ideological spirit of the Communist Manifesto and Marxism-Leninism and to strengthen our country's cultural self-confidence and confidence in the socialist system. In recent years, China has mainly focused on economic development. Countries' development in

the context of economic globalization has long been permeating each other. The theme of our time is peaceful coexistence. It is only in a peaceful environment that we and all of humanity can achieve better development. But with the intensification of the ideological game of the United States and the instability of the world situation, this was a different environment from Marx.

Given these differences, can we still find inspiration and an answer to socialism's direction in communism's Manifesto?

## **2. IS THIS COMMUNISM MANIFESTO OUT OF DATE?**

Time is developing, people's living conditions are changing, and methods of production are evolving. Comparing today with a hundred years ago, our lives have long since changed radically. The blood-sucking capitalists that Marx once wrote about have long since been transformed, and today's capitalist countries have a complete bill of rights and benefits for workers that not only fully protect their rights and interests but also raise their overall income levels. Instead, the situation of some socialist countries with less developed economies and lower living standards is such that many people are beginning to question whether communism will work, whether it will make our lives better, and whether Marx's theories are outdated. The author believes that this questioning is essentially a failure to distinguish between the nature of capitalism and socialism, as well as a failure to see the more important methodology behind Marx's theory. There is no doubt that the economy and culture of today's technology and life in 1850 must be different, and the reality must be different from that described by Marx, but this alone does not make his theory obsolete. So re-read the Communist Manifesto not only to see Marx's call for proletarian revolution but also to focus on Marx's analysis of the inevitable demise of capitalism and the inevitable triumph of socialism. The author believes that the ideas and concepts stated in the Communist Manifesto are still correct, that today's society is still composed of capitalism and socialism, and that the struggle still exists, but the way and form of the struggle may have changed. In the past, the military struggle may have used a relatively single force, but now it includes multiple ways and means such as cultural, political, and economic struggle. So the confrontation and struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie in the Communist Manifesto should also be brought up to date.

### **2.1. "Two Inevitability"**

"Two Sureties" refers to capitalism's inevitable demise and socialism's inevitable victory. In the first chapter of the Communist Manifesto, Marx remarked that "the death of the bourgeoisie is as inevitable as the triumph of the proletariat. ..." (Max Engels, Communist Manifesto, People's Press, 2014 pp. 1-4). Marx and Engels pointed out in their reflections on the course of human development that all historical developments are the result of class struggle, and that each class struggle inevitably leads to the overthrow of the ruling class and the emergence of a new ruling class. Along the way, we experienced primitive society, slave society, feudal society, and capitalist society, until today's socialist society, the communist society must replace capitalist society, capitalism must perish and socialism must win.

The core of the law of development of human society is the contradiction, which drives human society forward in a sinuous and winding development. And the basic contradiction of human social development is the contradiction between the productive forces and the relations of production, between the economic base and the superstructure, and such a crisis still exists in capitalism in today's society. For example, the financial crisis, the surplus of products brought about by capitalist mass production, when people's purchasing power is insufficient, without state macro-control, the supply exceeds the demand will inevitably lead to businessmen losing money, which in turn will lead to layoffs, which in turn will accelerate the problem of insufficient purchasing power triggering a wave of unemployment and economic collapse. The

contradiction between the socialization of production and the capitalist form of private ownership of the means of production is the reason for the inevitable periodic economic crises in capitalist society. This is precisely the basic contradiction of the capitalist mode of social production, and if this contradiction is not changed, the periodic outbreak of economic crises cannot be stopped. From this law, the development of capitalism will inevitably lead to socialism, so the judgment of "two inevitable" still applies today.

## 2.2. Opposites from Both Classes

Marx noted in the first chapter of the Communist Manifesto that "society as a whole is increasingly divided into two opposing camps, forming two classes that are in direct opposition to one another: the bourgeoisie and proletariat. "(Marx and Engels, Communist Manifesto, Peoples' Press, 2014, pp.1-4 )The proletariat developed under the power of the bourgeoisie, as an emerging productive class that, while creating enormous wealth for capitalist society, was itself without capital and increasingly impoverished by the exploitation and oppression of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie, on the other hand, owns a large amount of the means of production and social wealth. Today's capitalist society is not quite the same as the environment in which Marx lived. The bourgeoisie required domination, which also led to a great improvement in the life of the proletariat. Yet the exploited position of the proletariat remained unchanged, and the antagonism between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, though not as sharp, still existed. Therefore, according to Marx, only in communist society "instead of the old bourgeois society with its classes and class antagonisms will be such a union where the free development of each individual is the condition for the free development of all". According to Marx and Engels Anthology, People's Publishing House 1995, p.306) In a communist society, everyone can develop freely, all humanity can be liberated and there is no opposition between the ruling class and the ruling classes.

So although there may be a gap between capitalist and socialist societies at the economic level, there is still a huge difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in capitalist societies, except that both the bourgeoisie and the proletariat have developed to a certain extent. And while socialism has developed only as a prelude to communism, and while we may currently have a certain gap between rich and poor to develop our economy, our essence has not changed. Socialist society is still dominated by the proletariat, and the economic development of the whole society serves the interests of the proletariat at large, which is the common prosperity advocated by our country. Marx and Lenin also said that the development of capitalism plays a role in laying the foundation of material conditions for a communist society. So countries in socialist societies are bound to encounter economic problems on the road to development, but even though we are solving economic problems, we are not changing the nature of our society. If a capital, bourgeoisie emerges, then it will still be overthrown by the proletarians eventually. This is the essential difference between a capitalist society and a socialist society. A capitalist society is where the bourgeoisie and the proletariat coexist, and even where the bourgeoisie is in a dominant position. And socialist society will eventually be led by the proletariat to achieve the emancipation of all mankind.

## 2.3. Fundamental Contradictions in Capitalist Society.

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels analyzed the conditions of capitalist existence and domination, revealed the insurmountable fundamental contradiction between the socialization of capitalist production and the capitalist occupation of the means of production, and proved the inevitability of capitalist society's demise. "Capital as an uncontrolled desire to become rich seeks to infinitely increase labor productivity and make it a reality. According to Marx, "This was Marx's judgment of capital, the result of which was the rapid development of social productivity, the rapid increase in the level of production, and "the bourgeoisie, in less

than a hundred years of class domination, created more and greater productivity than the whole generation of its predecessors." (Max Engels: Communist Manifesto, People's Press, 2014, p.32) The production and accumulation of capital have caused an increasingly obvious polarization, with the minority constantly accumulating wealth and the majority gradually becoming poor on the other side, and the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat will become increasingly obvious, thus the basic contradiction of capitalist society remains. Thus "the bourgeoisie cannot survive unless there is a constant revolution in the means of production, and thus in the relations of production, and thus in all social relations." (Ibid, p. 30)

In recent years we can also see that capitalist societies are constantly adjusting labor relations, economic production, social welfare benefits, etc. These were designed to diminish or weaken the contradictions between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. They also tried to avert the economic crisis by employing state macro-regulation. This list of means and measures just proves that capitalist societies have contradictions, and they are learning socialist means and ways to resolve them. However, neither the means nor the methods can fundamentally solve the basic contradictions, but can only scratch the itch, and until its basic contradictions are overturned and solved, the root of the disease of capitalism will not be purified one day. Thus the Communist Manifesto is still relevant in today's time, and although conditions have changed somewhat, Marx's reasoning and methodology have not become obsolete, and it can still serve as a beacon to guide the proletariat worldwide in its struggle to achieve a communist society.

ii. Contemporary relevance of Communist Manifesto.

In recent years, there has been a wave of opposition to Marx's work in China, arguing that we are in the initial stage of socialism. The Declaration is the theory that guides the revolution and does not apply to China's current development. The forcible overthrow of the revolution advocated in the Communist Party Declaration does not apply to Chinese society today.

However, the author believes that the Chinese people today also need the guidance of the Communist Manifesto. We are currently in a critical period of modernization, and one of the major reasons for this departure from the ideology of the Communist Manifesto is the lack of ideological enlightenment for the general public. First of all, we must clearly understand that we are currently in the primary stage of socialism, and not some other primary stage. On the premise of recognizing this, we have to bear in mind what Marx said about the two inevitable: "the demise of the bourgeoisie and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable. "That's the objective law of history." With the guidance of Marx, we move step by step towards the lofty ideal of communism, and though the process may be lengthy, we must always be convinced that the efforts we are making at the moment are directed towards that goal, so that we do not completely divide reality from the ideal. In this respect, Lenin once said that engaging with the revolutionary cause of the proletariat is like "trying to climb a rugged, unexplored, undamaged mountain." So, "sometimes you have meander ahead, sometimes you try to turn in a different direction, and you have chosen to go back." (Lenin: Selected Works of Lenin (Volume IV) People's Publishing House, 1972 edition, p. 225) From this we can see that getting to the top is the most important thing, and by what means and methods just to get to the top faster and better, faster towards communism. In reality, we have to work hard to prevent those who want to lead China in the direction of capitalism, those who put "reform" on the capitalist track, and those who ridicule the communist ideal from succeeding. Then the only way is to adhere to the belief of communism, and on this basis, to do what should be done at the primary stage of socialism, revealing the relationship between the goal of communism and what we do. Thus, following the guidance of the Communist Manifesto is also quite important in the present day.

The reform and opening up of China in recent decades and the great social transformation have caused many people to have certain doubts about the ruling of the Chinese Communist Party, believing that it no longer represents the proletariat, and some even seek to change the

nature of the Chinese Communist Party. Despite today's reform and opening up, economic development, and the serious trend of interest, the nature of the Chinese Communist Party has not changed, and all that has been done is to better follow the path of socialism and avoid the path of the former Soviet Union. But in recent years there has been a lot of skepticism about the Chinese Communist Party, so we also need to pay more attention to party building, and the principles of party building in the Communist Manifesto have important implications for us today. In Chapter II of the Communist Manifesto, Marx mentions that "the Communists emphasize and insist on the common, non-national interests of the proletariat as a whole; on the other hand, they always represent the interests of the movement as a whole at all stages of development through which the struggle of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie passes. "Therefore the working principles for strengthening the party can still refer to the principles of party building in the Communist Manifesto. First of all, it should cultivate the sense of responsibility of the ruling party of the proletariat, that is, the Communist Party, to clarify what kind of responsibility it should assume, to bear the trust of the general public, to guard every shift, and to prevent the erosion of bureaucracy and the culture of corruption. Secondly, to always represent the interests of the proletariat, the majority of Communist Party members should understand that they have no "special interests" except the interests of the proletariat. Although the emphasis has been on anti-corruption and integrity, such things still have been numerous, so strengthening the construction of party members and ideological education is particularly important. Take to heart this admonition from the Communist Manifesto: "All movements of the past have been of the minority or for the benefit of the minority. The proletariat is an independent movement for the benefit of a greater number of people." (Marx and Engels: The Collected Works of Marx and Engels (Volume II) People's Publishing House, 2009 edition, p. 42.)

### 3. SUMMARY

The ideological content of the Communist Manifesto, the ruling programmatic document of the first proletarian party in the world, caused an uproar in the society of the time. Nowadays, we have taken a very crucial step in its theory - entering a socialist society, but we still cannot put aside the study of the Communist Manifesto. Capitalist society still exists and still preys on our existence, and we cannot relax for a moment and forget the revolutionary purpose of the proletariat. The Communist Manifesto contains Marx's profound ideological understanding and unremitting insistence on the revolutionary cause of the proletariat. Its theory and method have rich enlightenment to today's society, and it is worth us studying and reflect. It is to be believed that under the guidance of Marxist ideology the proletariat will, at last, realize true freedom.

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