

# Research and Comment on the Party's Theoretical Innovation since Reform and Opening

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## Abstract

The vitality of theory lies in innovation. If any theory does not keep up with the development of the times and practice, it will lose its vitality. Continuously advancing theoretical innovation in accordance with the needs of the times and practical development is not only the fine tradition of our party, but also an important magic weapon for the party to lead the people to keep up with the development of the times. The Communist Party of China is not only a promoter of the Sinicization of Marxism, but also a promoter of theoretical innovation. Establishing the results of theoretical innovation as the party's guiding ideology, continuous exploration, pioneering and innovation, and aggressiveness are the inevitable choice for our party to remain invincible. Continuously promoting theoretical innovation is the source of the Marxist party's eternal vitality, the inexhaustible driving force for the development of Marxist theory, and the actual need to promote the development of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## Keywords

Theory; Innovation; Theoretical innovation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The development history of Marxism is not only a process of combining Marxism with Chinese reality, but also a process of theoretical innovation that continuously promotes the Sinicization of Marxism. The party's theoretical innovation is not only the driving force for the continuous development of theories, but also the need for theories to guide China's practice. In the process of promoting the Chinese revolution, construction, and reform, the Chinese Communists continued to make theoretical innovations around the major theoretical topic of "What is Marxism and how to treat Marxism." At present, academic circles are actively studying the theoretical innovation of the Chinese Communist Party and have achieved fruitful results. Especially in terms of the connotation, reasons, historical evolution, basic experience and meaning of the party's theoretical innovation, the research thinking and basic paradigm of the party's theoretical innovation have been initially formed.

## 2. CURRENT RESEARCH STATUS OF THE PARTY'S THEORETICAL INNOVATION IN THE ACADEMIC CIRCLE

### 2.1. The Connotation of Theoretical Innovation

The party's theoretical innovation research begins with the connotation of theoretical innovation. What is theoretical innovation, what type of theoretical innovation includes, and what kind of innovation is theoretical innovation. The academic circles gave different answers from different perspectives. Some commentators point out from the basic types of theoretical

innovation that theoretical innovation is to break the original theoretical model, jump out of the original perspective and system, and reconstruct the original theory. The process of sublimating perceptual knowledge into rational knowledge and forming a complete theoretical form. [1] Some theorists point out from the essence of theoretical innovation that theoretical innovation is to combine Marxism with Chinese reality, use the basic positions, viewpoints, and basic methods of Marxism to form new conclusions that conform to the law. [2] Some commentators pointed out from the perspective of developing Marxism that theoretical innovation is to adapt to the needs of the development of the times and continuously form practical activities of Marxist theoretical results with great guiding significance. [3] Some commentators also pointed out from the class standpoint that theoretical innovation is the scientific decision of the Chinese Communists at major moments. [4]

## 2.2. The Scientific Basis for the Party's Theoretical Innovation

Theoretical innovation is the product of the development of the times and practice. The times are advancing, practice is developing, and the party's theoretical innovation is endless. The Communist Party of China has always paid attention to theoretical innovation. Since the reform and opening up, the party's theoretical innovation has made major breakthroughs. These important theoretical results were put forward on the basis of the party's review of the current situation, planning the overall situation, and a profound understanding of the international and domestic situations.

First, changes in party, world, and national conditions are the scientific basis for theoretical innovation. Theorists pointed out that changes in the international and domestic situation, the development of socialist practices with Chinese characteristics, and the realization of the requirements for building a well-off society in an all-round way are the practical basis for the party's theoretical innovation. [5] Some commentators believe that the party's theoretical innovation is a scientific judgment on the current international situation and development trends; An accurate grasp of the staged characteristics of our country is an inevitable choice for strengthening modernization; it is an important source of strengthening the healthy development of the ideological line; it is an objective need to solve major practical issues in governance. [6] Theoretical innovation is the forerunner of practical innovation, and it also provides methodological guidance for various innovations. [7]

Second, practice is the source of theoretical innovation. Marx pointed out that it is not to explain practice from the theoretical form, but to explain the theory from practice. [8] Engels believes that knowledge is relative in nature because it is subject to a specific era and nation. [9]

Third, the pioneering spirit of the people is the source of theoretical innovation. Theorists believe that giving full play to the dominant position of the people and respecting the people's initiative is the source of theoretical innovation. [10]. Some scholars also believe that the people's experience in practice constitutes the fundamental driving force for theoretical innovation. [11]

Fourth, basic social contradictions are the decisive force for theoretical innovation. Marx pointed out that judging an era of change cannot be based on its consciousness but explained from the existing conflicts between social productivity and production relations. [12] Hegel pointed out that "the delusion makes the development of philosophy surpass the development of the times, which is as stupid as the delusion that the individual separates from the times. [13]

Fifth, what is critical and open is the quality and motivation of theoretical innovation. Theorists point out that the criticality and openness of Marxism are the prerequisites for Marxist theoretical innovation. [14] Some commentators also pointed out that theoretical innovation must adhere to the open spirit of Marxism. [15]

### 2.3. The Historical Evolution of the Party's Theoretical Innovation

In the reform and opening up and socialist modernization drive, the valuable experience accumulated by the party has important guiding significance for the party's theoretical innovation process. The course of the party's theoretical innovation is the party's different answers to major governance issues based on the practice of different historical periods and the characteristics of the times. Theorists pointed out that the development track of the party's theoretical innovation has gone through three stages: the exploration and development of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, sublimation and innovation, and deepening and improvement. [16] Some commentators also pointed out from the perspective of the relationship between theoretical innovation and practical development that the party's theoretical innovation has gone through four stages: The theoretical innovation and practical development of "what kind of party to build and how to build a party"; the theoretical innovation and practical development of "what is Marxism and how to treat Marxism"; the theoretical innovation and practical development of revolution, construction and reform; The theoretical innovation and practical development of "what kind of development to achieve and how to develop". [17] Some commentators also proceeded from the process of Sinicization of Marxism. The party's theoretical innovation has experienced the early spread of Marxist theory in China and combined with China's reality to produce two major theoretical results. [18] Some scholars pointed out that the theoretical innovation of the Chinese Communist Party always runs through a red line: The combination of Marxism and China's reality has successively produced three roads with Chinese characteristics: the road of new democratic revolution, the road of socialist transformation, and the road of socialist construction, forming two major theoretical results. [19] Based on the new century, some scholars pointed out that the party's theoretical innovation is divided into two stages: from the 16th to the 18th National Congress of the Party; since the 18th National Congress of the Party. [20]

### 2.4. The Basic Experience of the Party's Theoretical Innovation

The Communist Party of China is a political party that values theoretical innovation. Continuous theoretical innovation based on the requirements of the times and practical development is a valuable experience in revolution, construction, and reform. Since the reform and opening up, continuous theoretical innovation has been made in accordance with the general trend of international and domestic development, which has effectively promoted the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the advancement of modernization. Under the new historical conditions, continuing to promote theoretical innovation is of great significance for highlighting the theoretical quality of Marxism advancing with the times and promoting the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The academic circles' summary of theoretical innovation experience mainly focuses on the following aspects:

First, uphold and develop Marxism. Lenin pointed out that Marxism is not a dogma, not a doctrine, but an evolving guide to action. [21] Mao Zedong pointed out that if theory does not proceed from China's reality, it cannot be used in revolution. But if you apply the theory to practice to solve China's real problems and create new theories, you can use it. [22]

Second, the use of socialism with Chinese characteristics runs through. Some scholars pointed out that the theme of the party's theoretical innovation and practical exploration since the reform and opening up has been socialism with Chinese characteristics. [23] Some commentators also pointed out that following one's own path and building socialism with Chinese characteristics is the subject of theoretical innovation. [24]

Third, give full play to the pioneering spirit of the people and guarantee the realization of their fundamental interests. The masses of people are the creators of history, the decisive force of social change, and the main body of theoretical innovation. The pioneering spirit comes from

the people and is the endogenous driving force for theoretical innovation. [25] Some commentators also pointed out that the party's theoretical innovation is centered on the fundamental purpose of realizing the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people. [26]

Fourth, give play to the role of theory in guiding practice, and return to practice to accept the test of practice, and continue to enrich and improve in practice. Marx pointed out that the correct theory must be combined with concrete reality and explained based on existing conditions. [27] Lenin pointed out that theory must be put into practice, practice gives vitality to theoretical innovation, and practice revises and tests theory. [28] Some commentators also pointed out that continuous innovation in accordance with the requirements of practice and continuous guidance of practice with the results of theoretical innovation is an important approach and fundamental goal of the Chinese Communist Party's theoretical innovation. [29]

Fifth, follow the trend of the times and grasp the trend of the times. Theoretical innovation must keep up with the development of the times and solve the problems of the times. Some commentators pointed out that standing at the forefront of the times and grasping the characteristics of the times are the realistic basis for theoretical innovation. [30] Some commentators also pointed out that only by adhering to the epochal nature of theoretical innovation can Marxist theoretical innovation be scientific. [31]

## **2.5. The Significance of the Party's Theoretical Innovation**

As a ruling party, if you want to improve the party's leadership, authority, prestige, and political life within the party, it must be guided by scientific theories. Strengthening the party's theoretical innovation and enriching and developing the theoretical innovation system is conducive to promoting the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics and even more conducive to promoting the development of my country's party building cause. The academic circles have seldom studied the significance of the party's theoretical innovation, which is mainly reflected in the following two aspects:

First, the party's theoretical innovation is the need for the party to govern for a long time and to enhance its authority. Some commentators pointed out that theoretical innovation is the source of a political party's eternal vitality; it is the long-term ruling need of the Chinese Communist Party. [32] Some commentators also pointed out that under the guidance of advanced theories, the party led the Chinese people to form a powerful ruling authority in the process of socialist modernization. [33] It can be seen that the party's theoretical innovation is of great significance to the consolidation and promotion of the ruling authority.

Second, the party's theoretical innovation is an important guarantee for advancing reform and opening up, so theoretical innovation must always adhere to the main line of reform and opening up. Therefore, some commentators pointed out that focusing on theoretical innovation is an important guarantee for the smooth progress of party building and reform. [34] Some commentators also pointed out that reform and opening up, as a main line, runs through the entire process of the party's theoretical innovation and practical exploration. [35] Some scholars pointed out that the party's theoretical innovation has provided a new impetus for deepening reform. [36]

Third, the party's theoretical innovation is the need for China's future development. Some commentators pointed out that innovation requires correct theoretical guidance and traction. [37] Some commentators also pointed out that the party's theoretical innovation is of great significance to the development of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the improvement of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and the future development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. [38]

### 3. THE RESEARCH REVIEW AND PROSPECT OF THE PARTY'S THEORETICAL INNOVATION

For a long time, the party and theoretical circles have attached great importance to the party's theoretical innovation. Scholars have carried out in-depth research from many aspects and have obtained fruitful research results. They have put forward some meaningful viewpoints and propositions, which are of great significance to the party's theoretical innovation. Judging from the numerous research results, first, the academic circles have made a detailed definition of the connotation of the party's theoretical innovation, which has laid a good foundation for future research on theoretical innovation. Second, in terms of the reasons for theoretical innovation, the academic circles agree that changes in party, world, and national conditions are the scientific basis for theoretical innovation. Practice is the source of theoretical innovation, the initiative of the people is the source of motivation for theoretical innovation, and criticality and openness are important qualities of theoretical innovation. Third, the historical evolution of theoretical innovation is mostly related to the two major theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism. Fourth, although five aspects are emphasized in the basic experience of theoretical innovation, it mainly emphasizes practice, the people and socialism with Chinese characteristics. Fifth, the significance of the party's theoretical innovation is to emphasize the role of the ruling party itself and reform and opening up.

The current achievements in the academic circle are the prerequisites for creating a new realm and situation in theory. The research results of predecessors have provided us with ideological reference for better carrying out the party's theoretical innovation practice and research work, but the current research results still have shortcomings. First, although theoretical innovation has always emphasized the unity of innovation and development, in the study of the historical evolution of theoretical innovation, only the theoretical achievements of each leader are stated, and the inheritance and development of these theoretical achievements are rarely studied in depth; Second, the basic experience of theoretical innovation is mainly at the macro level, and there are few studies on the micro level. In the new era, how to find more effective ways and methods of theoretical innovation with a more rigorous academic style and research attitude is the need to build a systematic and theoretical scientific system of theoretical innovation; Third, clarify and highlight the key points of the party's theoretical innovation, adhere to the principle of overall promotion and key breakthroughs, establish special research and corresponding scientific research teams for theoretical innovation, and conduct special research on major theoretical issues related to the party and the country.

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