

Research of Lenin and Early Western Marxist Class Consciousness Thought

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Abstract:

Lenin's theory of class consciousness and its revolutionary ideas have been proved in the practice of the Russian revolution, and the second and third international Marxist practice in the western developed capitalist countries were ended in failure. Early western Marxist reflected the proletarian revolution of the developed capitalist countries at the end of the First World War. Represented by early western Marxist like Lukacs, Gramsci and Kohl's critically inherited and developed the theory of Lenin's. They attached great importance to the study of ideology especially the proletarian class consciousness, and make it become a hot point in the research of Western Marxist, since Lukacs continue to post-modern.

Key words: Lenin, Early Western Marxist, Class Consciousness

From the late 19th century to the early 20th century, social problems emerge in endlessly along with the rapid development of capitalism; class contradictions have become increasingly acute. In this historical period, capitalist society entered the era of imperialism, and at the same time the proletariat has gradually stepped onto the historical stage and become the protagonist of the revolution, let the revolutionary fire burning all over Europe. Everybody think Marx's prophecy is imminent, socialist flower will bloom in Europe. But the reality pours cold water for everyone, only backward eastern Russia won the victory of the proletariat revolution, the revolutionary movement that takes place in the developed capitalist countries, none escape the fate of failure. Some theorist wanders, others change the flag authorities to find another way out, and succumb to the bourgeoisie. The Early Western Marxist theorists such as Lukacs, Gramsci and Cole did some research on the reason why the backward Russian won the revolution, while the developed capitalist countries are finally failure. They analyzed the current situation of European countries and Russia, and realized the importance of class consciousness in the revolution; they also took the Lenin's thoughts into consideration at the same time, critically absorb it, and finally formed the class consciousness theory with its own characteristics.

Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat inherit and develop Marx and Engels's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat. If, Marx and Engels's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is more under push of the proletariat revolutionary movement, to strive for the dictatorship of the proletariat in the historical period, so, Lenin not only uphold the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat to guide and promote the development of the Russian proletarian revolutionary movement, and the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Russia become a reality, and further discusses in Soviet Russia adhere to and implement the form of the dictatorship of the proletariat, by the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat into a new stage of development, ushered in a new era in the history of mankind.

1. Lenin thinking of class consciousness

Lenin's thinking of class consciousness is not an accident, but it has its historical and realistic conditions. With the center of the proletarian revolution moving to the east, the fire of revolution burns in the east. Lenin is at the center of the revolutionary storm, he not only on the theoretical level to study Marxism, but also apply the results of the exploration in Russia. Lenin had profound thinking of the definition of the proletarian class, the formation and function the proletarian class, and the relationship between the parties.

In Lenin's awareness, class consciousness is not an isolated existence; it is a concept with multiple meanings. Multiple here, not only is multiple subjects, multiple Angle, but multiple levels. Look from the main body, Lenin's gave the definition of class consciousness as 'proletarian class consciousnesses', 'class consciousness of the workers' and 'bourgeois class consciousnesses'. From the dynamic perspective, he described it as 'spontaneous awakening' and 'consciousness in the struggle of life and consciousness awakening'. Look from specific area, the definition went deep into the political arena, described as 'class politics consciousness' and 'socialist political consciousnesses'.

Lenin described the proletarian class consciousness as the organic unity of spontaneous awareness and consciousness. Working-class spontaneous awakening of consciousness refers to the workers' spontaneous awakening that join the voluntary union consciously, struggle with the factory owners and fight for their own rights and interests from the government. In Lenin's view self-consciousness is 'the real class consciousnesses', a kind of 'understanding the position and task of the proletarian consciousnesses', is 'a clear understanding of the relation of all the modern social classes'. It is not happen overnight from spontaneous to conscious, but through

instill the scientific socialism theory -Marxism from top to bottom, let it take root in the masses of the proletariat to form the real class consciousness of the proletariat.

Lenin thought the class consciousness of the proletariat, doesn't just come spontaneous, but along with the spread of Marxism. In Lenin's view, that it is extremely ridiculous that the view of workers' movement will inevitably create ideological system. First, because of the proletariat do not have a lot of chance to accept education as the bottom of society, so it is impossible for them to create revolutionary theory alone. Socialist theory only can be created by bourgeois intellectuals who received good education and through the study of the system of economic, political, and historical. But in capitalist society, only proletariat can understand accept and use the socialist theory into practice. Because they were in a state of the oppressed, they can directly feel the disadvantages of capitalism, it makes them have a natural affinity with socialism theories. The proletariat has the class instinct to get rid of oppressed and exploited to accepting socialist theory. In Lenin's view 'the working class is the best listener to listen the reveal of political speech. Because they first need to learn the most comprehensive and vivid political knowledge, and put the knowledge into the most positive struggle, even if this struggle does not produce any significant results.' At the same time, Lenin pointed out the cultivation of the consciousness of the proletariat should not only instill by books and theory, but should combine with the actual problem in the struggle of the practice of the class struggle. Only by instilling and practicing the theory, it can promote the formation of the proletarian class consciousness.

Leninism is the inheritance and development of Marxism, of course, Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is inheritance and development of Marx and Engels's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat. If, Marx and Engels's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is more under push of the proletariat revolutionary movement, to strive for the dictatorship of the proletariat of historical period, so, Lenin not only uphold the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat to guide and promote the development of the Russian proletarian revolutionary movement, and the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Russia become a reality, to the Marxist theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat into a new stage of development, ushered in a new era in the history of mankind.

Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is very rich in content. Lenin not only inherited the Marx and Engels theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the many important writings further discusses the profound connotation of the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the great historical significance, and combined with practice of the construction of the Russian revolution and the Soviet union, Lenin further expounds the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the nature of the dictatorship of the proletariat and forms, the measures to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat, the dictatorship of the proletariat, transitional and a series of important problems, such as "national death" theory. Lenin cloth in leading Russian proletarian revolutionary struggle and socialist construction practice, from two aspects of theory and practice, the further development of Marx and Engels's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat ascend to a new height.

After the October revolution victory, combines the actual conditions of the Russian revolution, Lenin is to realize the dictatorship of the proletariat, to establish and consolidate the Soviet regime, with a lot of positive exploration and practice. , however, the traditional Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for example, to the dictatorship of the proletariat is not subject to any legal constraints regime ", to understand the problems of the Bolshevik "one-party dictatorship", there are some unscientific or incorrect composition especially many western scholars greatly distort the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, Lenin attack new proletariat ZhengDangXue Lenin said to be the so-called "replace", attack the new Soviet regime is "totalitarian" system "" the party's governance of the country, and so on, these are serious breach of historical facts. Recognition, therefore, Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the theory of analysis and criticism of Lenin proletarian misunderstood and distorted, recover the original face of Lenin theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, it is very important.

In Lenin's view, class consciousness is very important, it not only can evoke the proletariat, help them to carry out the consciousness of class struggle, and can resist the proletariat is blinded by the bourgeoisie, at the same time it also can help establish a closely contact with the proletariat political party. Lenin thought the relationship between class consciousness and political parties is they interact with each other. Correct theory can promote the healthy development of the party, and provide the theoretical guidance, motivation and direction. Lenin pointed out: 'Without revolutionary theory, there would be no strong socialist party, because revolution theory can unite all socialist, they can obtain all beliefs from the revolutionary theory, they use the theory of revolutionary to determine the struggle method and the way of activity.' A party on behalf of the working class, can promote the formation of the proletarian class consciousness, and theoretical, systematic, protect it from other class consciousness.

2. The early western Marxist thought of proletarian class consciousness

In the beginning of the 20th century, developed capitalist countries had social contradictions and class contradictions sharp around the First World War, this social environment provide a hotbed for revolution, social

revolution as spark set the prairie ablaze in western countries. But except the Russian Revolution, the social revolutions in other countries are difficult to get rid of the fate of failure. Early western Marxist like Lukacs, Gramsci, Cole all had in-depth thinking of the same issue, why the Russian Revolution can be successful, and why the revolution of western developed capitalist countries are failure? They rethink the reason of failure of the revolution, they have a common characteristic that is they all centered on the ideology of the proletariat and made a deep exploration on the proletarian class consciousness

Lukacs is a representative of the early western Marxist, his book 'History and Class Consciousness' is about class consciousness. He believes that Marxism is the proletarian class consciousness, is 'the ideologies of the proletariat are fighting for their emancipation'. He thought the materialized in the capitalist society is everywhere; the whole society is a materialized society. On the basis of physicochemical materialized consciousness dominated the whole society. The materialized consciousness is the bourgeois ideology and become the mainstream of society, i. It not only controls people's thought, but also enslaves the people's fresh. In the physical world, the proletariat is one bystander had nothing to do with history. How to get rid of the enslaved state of the proletariat and change from bystanders to consciousness of main body, achieve the unity of subject and object, is the historical mission of the proletariat. Lukacs thinks that the proletariat is the only way to grasp the overall class. If human want to achieve the historical mission of the proletariat, they should not only objectively make the proletariat economic status, but also have the proletarian class consciousness, only in this way revolutionary activities can be come true. Class consciousness is the bridge can lead revolution theory to revolutionary action. Only the proletarian know the understanding of their class status and historic mission, the proletariat can criticize capitalism as a whole. Avoiding 'trapped in a botched empiricism and abstract idealistic these two extremes'. The generation of the proletarian consciousnesses not simply relied on its own development and implementation, but also relied on the intellectuals of the proletarian parties work to produce. Implementation of the proletarian class consciousness awakening, from spontaneous to conscious, cannot leave the party's propaganda, education and indoctrination. Only in this way, it can let the proletariat revolution to avoid a purely spontaneous revolution. But Lukacs only see the instilling of consciousness, but not consider the accepted by infusion of status, and also ignore the proletariat in the capitalist society at that time was not aware of their oppression of capitalism and the current situation of exploitation.

In 'Prison Reading Notes' Gramsci said: It is impossible to awake the proletarian class consciousness to grasp the ideological leadership. He pointed out that there are two kinds of leadership in the capitalist society, one is control the political leadership of the state apparatus, the other is culture-the ideology leadership. When analyzed the cause of defeat of the revolution of western capitalist countries, Gramsci found that in the capitalist countries, the bourgeoisie use the tools such as culture, education and news to grasp the ideological leadership, thought the false propaganda, the false ideology is instilled from the bourgeoisie to the proletariat, and make proletariat think bourgeoisie is rational, at the same time, they use the state machine to control the whole country., In Gramsci's view, the proletarian revolution is the fight for ideology leadership. In the capitalist countries, proletariat I only grasp the ideological leadership can win the country's political leadership at the appropriate time. He said: 'Before seizing the power of the government, a social group should be a leader (this is one of the main conditions of seizing power)'. The realization of the proletarian ideology leadership must start from class consciousness. Only based on class consciousness, ideological leadership can be achieved. Gramsci believed that if the proletariat did not realize its own historical mission and its own class consciousness, even if they seized political leadership, obtained the victory of the revolution, it is also an imperfect revolution. Gramsci considered that intellectuals paly an extremely important role in the process of confirmed the proletarian class consciousness. He thinks the intellectuals need to strengthen the contact of the proletariat, achieve a reunification of the theory and practice, thought and action, and become the organic intellectuals of the proletariat. The proletariat also need to strengthen integration with intellectuals of, only in this way, 'Human can achieve the stability of the cultural and ideological organic nature', achieving the level of the proletarian class consciousness. Because of theory and practice, are separated from thought and action, it is engaged in revolutionary action on the transcendence of capitalism order which is lack of self-awareness, still followed the old, unreasonable which system should be resistance and change. This separation in Gramsci's view, is not caused by the proletariat, but caused by intellectuals. In this situation, the elite and the intellectuals in the revolutionary ranks can be contained in the revolutionary action of revolutionary theory, and summarized proletarian concept into a unity, and communicated t and infused to the workers. This idea, to some extent, is the proletarian class will.

In the book 'philosophy and Marxism' Cole also expounds the class consciousness of the proletariat. He thought the proletarian class consciousness is a kind of philosophy instead of 'ideology'. He opposed to the second and third international orthodox Marxists point of view, and think they want to give up the revolution. Cole thinks they did not truly inherit dialectics, so that's why they want to give up the revolution. The theory the practice of revolution cannot be achieved in the unity on the dialectics. Cole thought the relationship between theory and practice of revolutionary is ideology. he thought, philosophy problems always come with ideological problems. Cole thought that the ultimate aim of Marxist philosophy is to regain its actuality, and save the

Marxism from the fallacy of false ideology. Cole paid great attention on the interaction of theory and practice, he thought the proletarian class consciousness had a crisis in the late 19th century; it is because of the theory of Marxism and the practice of the proletariat were depart from each other. Cole pointed out that the practice of revolution is the premise for production of revolutionary theory. As a result, he opposed Lenin and Luxembour's view of revolutionary theory generated before the revolutionary practice. In Korsch's view, the proletarian class consciousness cannot leave its revolutionary practice. In a capitalist society, only the proletariat revolutionary practice and they need revolutionary theory to guide the development of proletariat revolutionary, revolutionary theory will produce, and the proletariat class consciousness will be exist. Cole considered that the infusion of any other form of education and theory, will not stimulate the proletarian class consciousness. Only the workers' movement and the moment when social revolution need theoretical support, the class consciousness of the proletariat will appear.

Early western Marxist analyzed the reason of the failure of European revolution from different angles, put forward the ways to solve the problem. Although the analysis Angle and the solving way are different, they all pay attention on the proletarian class consciousness. Whether Lukacs' return to the principal position of the proletariat or the overall grasp of the subject, Gramsci's aspirations of ideological leadership and redefinition of intellectuals; Or Cole proposed the resumption of Marxist philosophy, redefinition about the relationship between class consciousness and class action; all above views reflected the importance of class consciousness.

3. The similarities and differences between Lenin and the early western Marxist 's class consciousness

In the analysis of the cause of crisis of proletarian class consciousness , Lukacs thought consciousness of the proletarian class succumbing to the bourgeois class is not a simple social phenomenon, it is a kind of historical phenomenon and determined by the economic structure of capitalism. And Lenin thought the loss of the proletarian class consciousness due to the bourgeois deceive the consciousness of the proletariat. Gramsci thought that because the proletariat is under the rule of bourgeois ideology and not master the ideology leadership, so they lost proletarian consciousness. Cole thought proletariat lost the consciousness because they deviate from the revolutionary theory and practice. the practice of revolution is the basis of the revolution theory, only when the revolution of the proletariat practices occur, the class consciousness of the proletariat will be produce and compatible with the reality of the society.

In the thought of how to wake up proletarian class consciousness, Lukacs and Gramsci hold a positive view of Lenin's 'Indoctrination theory'. Lukacs thought Lenin's indoctrination theory based on reality, not simply relied on the practice theory or the predictions that run out of reality. It can awake the proletarian class consciousness by correct theory guidance, and through the way of education, public opinion and propaganda, awakening. Gramsci think through prediction about the historical process and the revolutionary intellectuals of the proletarian revolutionary theory, can seize the leadership, and eventually wurn 'mobile warfare' to 'trench warfare'. Cole was objected to Lenin's theory. Cole thought the level of practice determined the height of the decision theory, only the revolution practice can produce revolutionary theory. The theoretical level always adapted to the social reality and will not appear beyond the theory of historical reality. Practice determines the theory development; simply rely on the theory of infusion will put human into the trap of utopianism.

In consideration of class consciousness and the relationship between political parties, Lukacs and Gramsci developed Lenin defines the structure of the party's point of view, and do system research on the inherent relationship between class consciousnesses and the parties. They thought that the fundamental features of the proletarian party is they have the class consciousness, and also agree one-party dictatorships of Lenin theory. Lukacs thought party can help the proletariat over from spontaneous to conscious canyon. Through the party's propaganda, education and indoctrination, it can promote the generation of the proletarian class consciousness. Lukacs thought appropriate centralism can make them play a better role of the party, and parties does not allow the other parties exist. Political parties only keep a high degree of unity on ideology can have seamless link of theory with practice. From this point of view, Lukacs analyzed political parties and factions from a deeper Angle. Gramsci thought implementation is the ultimate goal of the class struggle between ideology dictatorship and performance., proletarian class consciousness can be achieved only after they realized the ideological dictatorship. Intellectuals play an extremely important role in the process of the implementation of the proletarian class consciousness awakening and seizing the leadership of the proletariat ideology. Cole had opposed views of Lenin's party monopoly theory. He believes the Russian the dictatorship of the proletariat dictatorship is essentially a kind of ideology and an authority above all rights, it is a spiritual system of oppression. This dictatorship is not only conducive to the produce of the proletarian class consciousness, and even it caused by backward or even loss of class consciousness to some extent.

Early western Marxist, no matter they support or against Lenin, or identify Leninism as dialectical materialism or mechanical materialism, they are all in order to prevent mechanical copy the successful experience of the Russian revolution, and try to explore a new path which is different from the Russian revolution. They made demonstration the significance of the proletarian revolution from social consciousness, class consciousness and main body element such as ideology, established an important role of the proletarian revolution from the human

subject angle. They also did some positive research on the reason of why proletarian class lost their consciousness, the right now situation of social history environment, how to get rid of forfeiting of class consciousness, and trying to recover the proletarian class consciousness.

Lenin's theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, including two aspects of proletarian revolution and socialist construction the rich content. Especially in Soviet socialist construction practice, in order to better achieve the dictatorship of the proletariat, Lenin put forward a series of important thoughts, the emphasis on the task of the dictatorship of the proletariat is not only to suppress exploiters of resistance, and more importantly, must carry on the socialist economic construction, to implement and maintain the masses of the people's fundamental interests. Lenin, in practice, this paper expounds the Soviet is the new national institutions, the Russian form is the dictatorship of the proletariat. Emphasize to distinguish between party and Soviet functions, properly handle the relationship between the party and the Soviet union. Lenin also emphasized that the ruling party must be good at political leadership, continue to improve and strengthen the self building, make the Bolsheviks in such aspects as politics, thought, organization, style to take responsibility leads the people in building socialism. This to properly handle under the new situation, the relationship between party and government to consolidate and strengthen the construction of the ruling party, to promote socialist construction, has important guiding significance.

We can't simply compare and evaluate Lenin's and early western Marxist's class consciousness theory. Whether a theory is correct or not, can or can't truly represent the proletarian class consciousness, whether it is full of vitality or not; should exam though theory and logic, also need to take it into to the practice of the proletariat revolution. Any theory and class consciousness is not simply applied mechanically, only through the revolutionary practice of inspection, can make the theory and practice, the subject and object become a unity, and finally become the proletarian class consciousnesses.

4 Future research directions and limitations.

This article makes a meticulous comparison on proletarian consciousness from historical perspective and social perspective, and through Lenin and contemporary western Marxists' different views of the proletarian class consciousness to deeply understand the proletarian class consciousness. This paper expounded proletarian class consciousness from the political, economic, cultural and ideological aspects. But this work also has its limitations, it is impossible to make a specific definition only from the understandings of the viewpoints of Lenin and the western Marxist, it is necessary to bring it to today's society to test its correctness. So, this requests us through social practice to understand the proletarian class consciousness.

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