

The Research on the Logic and Value of “Two Combinations”

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ABSTRACT

Through the comprehensive analysis of the connotation and logic, inheritance and innovation and the value of social governance, and the dialectical relationship of “two combination”, the inheritance of the idea of Marxism, the inheritance of excellent traditional culture and the governance of contemporary society.

1. The profound connotation and logic of “two combinations”

In the report of the Twentieth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jin Ping pointed out: “The CPC must combine the basic principles of Marxism with China’s specific reality and with China’s excellent traditional culture.”^①“The first combination” and “the second combination” constitute the core theory of the CPC, which not only has rich theoretical connotation, but also has important practical value. They have formed a mutually

integrated logical relationship, jointly promoting the development of Marxism with Chinese characteristics. This chapter will delve into the connotation and logic of “two combinations” from different dimensions.

1.1 The concept and connotation of “the first combination”

Marxism is not an unchanging dogmatism, but rather needs to be combined with specific realities. In the process of promoting the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we need to organically integrate the basic principles of Marxism with China’s specific historical, social, cultural, economic and other actual conditions. This combination emphasizes the innovation, adaptability, and development of theory, making Marxism more suitable

① Xi Jin Ping. Holding High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Uniting for the Comprehensive Construction of a Socialist Modernized Country -- Report at the 20th National Congress of the CPC [M]. Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 2022:6.

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male, 2022 master student of Yangming Studies and Guizhou Studies, Guiyang University, majoring in Marxist philosophy;

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for China's actual national conditions. When understanding the theoretical connotation of "adhering to the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific realities," it is necessary to pay attention to the following aspects: first, adhere to. Emphasize a firm belief and adherence to the basic principles, core values, and methodology of Marxism. Adhering to the basic principles and core values of Marxism means unwavering faith in basic viewpoints such as historical materialism, dialectical materialism, practical principles, and communist ideology. These basic principles represent the theoretical foundation of Marxism and are unquestionable. These series of basic principles reflect the objective laws of society and the basic direction of human social development. In the process of adhering to the basic principles of Marxism, we must continuously promote theoretical innovation and verify through practice whether the theory is applicable and whether it can solve China's practical problems. With the development of the times, social problems and challenges are constantly changing, and theories must also adapt to them in order to maintain vitality permanently. Xi Jin Ping pointed out: "Adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental thread that runs through Xi Jin Ping's ideology of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era."^① Therefore, adhering to a theory that is not rigidly stuck in a certain historical period, but rather to flexibly respond to changes in the times and continuously expand the scope of application of Marxism while maintaining its principles. Secondly, development. The development of theory must be closely integrated with practical problems. This is not only to obtain guidance from theory, but also to promote the development of theory through the problems encountered in practice. Practice is the standard for testing theory, and new practical experience can enrich and revise the theories we already know. Developing Marxism is not only about inheritance, but also requires theoretical innovation. This means that we need to constantly explore new problems and challenges, and constantly think about how to use the basic principles of Marxism to explain new phenomena and trends. Developing Marxism means addressing the bottlenecks of the times and solving new difficulties and challenges. For example, in the new era of digitization and globalization, it is necessary to explore the applicability of Marxism and how to apply its basic principles to address and solve problems in real life. Thirdly, China's specific reality. China is currently in the primary stage of socialism, and the main contradictions in society

have also undergone transformation with the development of history. This specific reality in China requires theoretical guidance and corresponding adjustments in practice. To solve the main practical contradictions at this stage, the application of theory should closely revolve around the phased characteristics of socialist construction, focusing on phased problems and key points. Integrating Marxism with China's specific realities requires a deep understanding of the characteristics, development stages, and main contradictions of Chinese society. Therefore, "China's specific reality" emphasizes the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with China's history, culture, society, and economy, making it more practical and effective in China's socialist construction, and more in line with reality. The development and application of theory should be in line with the specific reality of China, in order to better guide China's practice. Fourthly, combination. Xi Jin Ping profoundly pointed out: "Our party insists on combining the basic principles of Marxism with China's specific realities, and has successively embarked on a good path that meets the national conditions, people's needs, and the requirements of the times in different periods of China."^② This shows the importance of the CPC's integration of the basic principles of Marxism with China's actual situation, not only reflects the party's firm belief in the combination of theory and practice, but also highlights the party's innovation and adaptability in the process of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, suggesting the party's core leadership role in the process of combining theory with practice. This combination is not only a connection between theory and practice, but also to solve practical problems, promote national development, and provide a solid foundation for the exploration of the sinicization and modernization of Marxism.

1.2 The concept and connotation of the "second combination"

The combination of the basic principles of Marxism with the excellent traditional culture of China emphasizes the unity of theory and practice, modernity and tradition, which not only promotes the continuous development of Marxism's sinicization and modernization, but also promotes the prosperity of China's excellent traditional culture. Firstly, cultural confidence. The combination of excellent traditional Chinese culture with Marxism reflects the confidence of the Chinese people in excellent traditional culture. This confidence means that the Chinese

^① Theoretical Department of People's Daily. *Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era* [M]. Beijing: People's Daily Press, 2019: 29.

^② Theoretical Department of People's Daily. *Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era* [M]. Beijing: People's Daily Press, 2019: 51.

people believe that this combination can provide strong guidance for the development and cultural construction of the country, and thus inject confidence into the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Cultural confidence is also reflected in the Chinese people's belief that the organic combination of their excellent traditional culture and the basic principles of Marxism is possible. Through the organic combination of the two, China's excellent traditional culture can not only radiate new vitality, but Marxist theory can also be innovated with Chinese characteristics. Yang Zhenhua believes, "Only by vigorously exploring the most common and widely accepted concepts of excellent traditional Chinese culture can we continuously cultivate cultural confidence."^① These universal concepts are often selected through thousands of years of historical evolution and are the wisdom and crystallization passed down from generation to generation. Exploring these cultures is to rediscover the treasures of history in contemporary society, so that the Chinese people can feel the profound value of historical culture, and thus enhance their cultural confidence. Secondly, the integration of values. The basic principles of Marxism and the values in excellent traditional Chinese culture should be discussed, integrated, and coordinated in an appropriate context to form a more comprehensive and targeted new value system. This integration is not simply the superposition of two values, but rather the combination of respecting and preserving traditional values with the needs and development of modern society, in order to better guide national development and social progress. In the process of integration, it is necessary to consider balance factors such as individuality and commonality, historicity and reality, as well as innovation and inheritance, which are the foundation for achieving the integration of the basic principles of Marxism and excellent traditional Chinese culture. Thirdly, the combination of tradition and modernity. Engels pointed out: "Marx's theory is not dogma, but an elucidation of the development process that involves a series of interconnected stages." Engels emphasized that any theory of Marx is not an unchanging dogma, but has dynamic, historical, and adaptive characteristics, while also reflecting the complexity of social and historical development in keeping with the times. Therefore, starting from the development perspective of Marxism, history is a coherent process, and traditional culture, as a part of history, contains rich cultural accumulation. By organically combining traditional culture with modern theory, we can better understand the continuity of social

development and the inevitability of change. So as to provide society with more diverse and profound values, and better respond to complex practical problems.

1.3 The logical analysis of "two combinations"

"Two combinations" support and complement each other in theory and practice, and can be described as "two-way integration" or "dual combination". "Two combinations" are not a one-way influence relationship, but a two-way mutual infiltration process. The first combination emphasizes practical guidance, ensuring the feasibility of Marxist theory; The second combination makes the theory closer to Chinese culture, history, and values, thereby increasing the dissemination and development of Marxism in Chinese society; The combination of the two has jointly promoted the continuous development of Marxism's sinicization and modernization. We can analyze the logical relationship between the two from the perspectives of theory and practice. Firstly, Li Haixing pointed out that "the theoretical logic of the two combinations is internalized in the ideological crystallization of the Party's theoretical innovation."^② This means that the idea of "two combinations" is not only limited to the theoretical level, but also integrated into the Party's theoretical innovation. This fusion is not simply juxtaposing two concepts, but integrating this idea into the innovative thinking of the Party, making it a part of the Party's core theory. The theory of the Party is no longer just an abstract theoretical framework, but has been specifically applied and reflected in the actual work and practice of the Party. Therefore, theoretically speaking, the content of "two combinations" is a mutually integrated and interdependent relationship. It is not simply juxtaposing two combined concepts, but rather integrating them into a whole, together forming the innovative content of the Party's new era ideology. This indicates that in the party's innovation theory, it is not simply selecting one aspect, but rather considering both comprehensively to form a unified ideological system. This comprehensive thinking helps to guide the work of the Party more comprehensively. Second, in practice, according to the development requirements of the times, the people of the CPC constantly explore how to integrate the theory of "two combinations" into practical work to better guide the construction and development of the party and the country. We will encounter various social, economic, cultural and other problems in practice. By integrating the idea of "combining the two"

^① Yang Zhenhua The Era Value of "Two Combinations" [N] China Social Science Journal, November 3, 2022 (006).

^② Li Haixing. On the Historical Logic, Theoretical Logic, and Practical Logic of "Two Combinations" [J]. Journal of the Fujian Provincial Party School of the Communist Party of China (Fujian Administrative College), 2023 (03): 4-9.

into the process of solving problems, we can better solve specific problems. The concept of “two combinations” embodies the requirement of combining theory with practice, while also combining tradition with modernity. This is highly consistent with the Party’s relentless exploration spirit of keeping up with the times, making this ideology an important theoretical basis for guiding the Party’s innovation and practice. This practical orientation together constitutes the practical guidance for party members and cadres, making the theoretical and practical work of the party highly unified.

2. The Inheritance and Innovation Value of “Two Combinations”

The “two combinations” not only require the organic combination of Marxism and traditional culture, but also emphasize the combination with China’s specific reality. This integration also creates favorable conditions for the promotion of innovative thinking of the CPC people. In the trend of globalization, traditional Chinese culture continues to be rooted and integrated in innovative development, and thus showcases its unique cultural charm on the international stage. This chapter will deeply discuss how the “two combinations” thought can promote the rooting and innovation of Chinese traditional culture, as well as its great significance to the promotion of innovative thinking of CPC.

2.1 The Rooting of Traditional Culture

Xi Jin Ping pointed out that “excellent traditional Chinese culture is the ‘root’ and ‘soul’ of the Chinese nation; Chinese culture is the fertile soil of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the historical origin of socialism with Chinese characteristics.”^① The “root” and “soul” here mean that this excellent traditional Chinese culture is the core of the identity of the Chinese people, emphasizing the important position of traditional culture in Chinese society. “two combinations” ideology emphasizes the organic combination of traditional culture and Marxism, which has enabled traditional culture to find a more powerful position in modern Chinese society. This helps to strengthen people’s sense of identification with local culture, while also enhancing the cultural confidence of the country. In the context of globalization, the rooting and inheritance of traditional culture has become an important means for the public to shape cultural identity and gather strength. Integrating traditional culture

with the basic principles of Marxism can make traditional culture no longer seen as a legacy of the past, but a closely connected part of modern society. This deep integration makes people more willing to accept, understand, and identify with their cultural traditions. The enhancement of identity helps traditional culture to take root in people’s hearts and form a lasting emotional bond. The idea of “two combinations” requires that in the process of inheriting traditional culture, emphasis should be placed on promoting excellent traditional values and integrating them with the core Marxist values. This not only helps to establish the roots of traditional culture, but also enables the inheritance and development of traditional values in modern society. For example, traditional values such as benevolence, harmony, and equality, guided by Marxism, have a more leading role in modern society, enabling traditional culture to find a more powerful position in modern Chinese society. This positioning deepens the sense of identity, promotes values, enhances cultural confidence, innovates ways of expression, enriches educational content, and combines wisdom in social governance, all of which contribute to the deep rooting of traditional culture in modern society.

2.2 Improvement of innovative thinking

The thought of “two combinations” has played an important role in promoting the innovative thinking of CPC. The essence of this ideology lies in combining Marxist principles with the actual situation in China, while promoting excellent traditional Chinese culture. This unity encourages party members to apply the correct methodology in practical work, while constantly enriching and improving their worldview in practice, thus forming a more creative way of thinking. The application of the “two combinations” ideology in theoretical innovation, practical problem-solving, practicality, interdisciplinary thinking, and other aspects helps people to have a higher level of innovation ability in various fields. Marx once pointed out in the process of criticizing Proudhon: “Under all this unchanging and stagnant eternity, there is no history to speak of. Even if there is, at most, it is only the history in the concept, that is, the history reflected in the pure rational dialectical movement.”^② Marx questioned Proudhon’s “eternal principle” here. He believed that Proudhon’s views were too static and dogmatic, and did not fully consider the development of history, leading to a negation of the developmental nature of history. Marx emphasized the importance of innovative

^① Theoretical Department of People’s Daily. Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: People’s Daily Press, 2019:51.

^② Marx, Engels. Complete Works of Marx and Engels: Volume 4 [M]. Beijing: People’s Publishing House, 1972.149.

thinking here, believing that people need to have innovative thinking to understand and respond to these historical changes. Innovative thinking, as a driving force of historical development and a key position in social progress, implies that people cannot be limited to inherent concepts and patterns. This suggestion echoes the requirements of innovative thinking, which should be able to inherit tradition and creatively think about problems.

Xi Jin Ping pointed out: “The all-round innovation promoted by our party since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China is not only reflected in theoretical innovation, practical innovation, institutional innovation, etc., but also in the original practice of promoting supply side structural reform.”^① The idea of “two combinations” requires breaking through fixed traditional concepts. In comprehensive innovation. Party members can better understand problems and provide more innovative solutions by integrating knowledge from different fields. The idea of “two combinations” requires answering practical questions with theory. In comprehensive innovation, especially in promoting supply side structural reform, party members need to apply innovative thinking when solving practical problems, starting from fundamental principles, and finding more effective solutions. This problem oriented innovation emphasizes the solution of practical problems, making the innovative thinking of party members more practical and pragmatic. Liu Cang believes that “the two combinations are the important original ideas of the CPC in the new era, which reflects the requirements of the times to enrich and develop Marxism by using the excellent traditional Chinese culture.”^② Therefore, the theory of Marxism has solved China’s specific practical problems and improved the innovative thinking of CPC.

3. The Social Governance Value of “Two Combinations”

Social governance needs to unify universality and particularity, as Xi Jin Ping president: “Grasp the particularity of contradictions in the universality of contradictions.”^③ The integration of the universal principles of Marxism and China’s reality in the “Two Combinations” ideology can

more quickly adapt to the diversity of problems, thereby enhancing the pertinence and timeliness of social governance.

3.1 Enhancing the targeting of social governance

The idea of “two combinations” echoes the inheritance and development views of Marxism. It not only inherits the universal principles of Marxism, but also innovates in practice, making the theory closer to reality and more targeted. This dialectics is reflected in social governance, which means that on the basis of maintaining consistency, it can handle problems in different regions and social groups according to local conditions. Xi Jin Ping profoundly pointed out, “Grasp the particularity of contradictions in the universality of contradictions, grasp the regularity of things’ development in the unity of contradictions, and promote economic development and social progress in the process of resolving contradictions.”^④ Dialectical materialism emphasizes the dialectical relationship between universality and particularity in the development of things, believing that contradictions have both common laws and their own characteristics. In the view of social governance, it also has this characteristic, that is, when solving social problems, it is necessary to find the universal root cause of the problem, and at the same time, consider the special situations of different regions and groups according to local conditions. The principle of universality provides a unified value guidance for governance, while special circumstances require specific measures to be tailored to local conditions. This dialectical relationship enables communists to maintain flexibility in adapting to diversity in the process of social governance. The idea of “two combinations” precisely combines the universal principles of Marxism with the specific realities of China. Marxism provides universal and scientific basic principles, while China has unique national conditions, history, and culture. The universality of Marxism provides a solid theoretical foundation for governance, while the particularity of China requires the formulation of specific policies based on actual situations. This combination of universality and specificity enables us to better solve practical problems in Chinese society while adhering to principles. Social governance is essentially the process of handling social contradictions and promoting social progress, which requires attention to the dialectical relationship between universal laws and specific situations. Universal laws represent the commonalities of social governance, while specific contexts encompass the individu-

① Theoretical Department of People’s Daily. Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: People’s Daily Press, 2019:180.

② Liu Cang The Rich Connotation, Era Value, and Practical Path of “Two Combinations” [J]. Research on Marxist Theory in Universities, 2022, 8 (04): 12-21.

③ Theoretical Department of People’s Daily. Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: People’s Daily Press, 2019:55.

④ Theoretical Department of People’s Daily. Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: People’s Daily Press, 2019:55.

ality of social governance. Through the application of the “two combinations” ideology, social governance can not only maintain consistency under the guidance of universal laws, but also formulate practical and feasible policies and measures based on specific situations, achieving dialectical unity between universal laws and specific situations. This practical orientation enables governance theory to not only remain at an abstract level, but also to be implemented in practical work, achieving true social progress.

3.2 Improving the timeliness of social governance

Dialectical materialism holds that the development of things is a constantly changing and evolving process. In the development of social history, no problem is static, and over time, the nature and manifestation of the problem may change. Society is a complex and diverse system, influenced by numerous factors, and the essence and manifestations of social problems may change with changes in the environment, social structure, values, etc. The idea of “two combinations” to a certain extent echoes the core viewpoint of dialectical materialism, which emphasizes the combination of the basic principles of Marxism with Chinese culture and reality. This can enable us to identify the root causes of problems more quickly and accurately, identify social governance difficulties more quickly and accurately, and solve problems more quickly. It can better grasp the development dynamics of social problems, adjust governance strategies in a timely manner, and maintain the timeliness of social governance. In the issue of social governance, conflicts in society often undergo corresponding transformations over time, and there may be differences between the initial appearance and the root cause. The idea of “two combinations” can quickly identify the essence and root cause of the problem. This helps not only solve surface problems, but also fundamentally solve them, enhancing the effectiveness and timeliness of social governance. Xi Jin Ping president pointed out: “Adhering to the actual situation of our country’s society, keenly grasping the main contradictions in many social contradictions and the overall contradiction, and consciously deploying the overall work of the Party and the country around the main contradictions is a successful experience for our Party to consciously use Marxist contradiction theory to analyze and solve specific problems in China’s revolution, construction, and reform.”^① The concept of “two combinations” has been implemented in practice by Xi Jin Ping president, emphasizing that

governance issues should be based on the overall situation of the country, as well as practical and specific considerations, so that solutions are more closely related to China’s actual situation. The “two combinations” emphasize the unity of the whole and the parts, which enables us to view the problem from a more macro perspective. This helps us grasp the essence of the problem, avoid falling into one sidedness and shortsightedness, and quickly determine the key factors of the problem; At the same time, the idea of “two combinations” emphasizes the actual characteristics of the combination area and environment, adopts different governance strategies, understands the particularity of local problems, and then formulates more appropriate solutions to enhance the timeliness of social governance. Microscopic analysis can also reveal the details and specific situations of the problem, so as to more accurately identify the root of the problem. Therefore, the idea of “two combinations” emphasizes both the whole and the parts; It emphasizes both macro and micro aspects, enabling comprehensive and in-depth analysis of social governance from macro to micro, from general principles to specific practices, thus having significant significance in improving the timeliness of social governance. In summary, the idea of “two combinations” is rooted in the basic principles of Marxism. In the specific reality of China and the inheritance and innovative development of excellent Chinese culture, it has achieved the combination of inheritance and innovation. This combination symbolizes the intersection of the past and the future, injecting inexhaustible impetus into the development of social history.

4. Conclusion

This article analyzes the profound connotations contained in the idea of “two combinations” and emphasizes their unified relationship. The first combination emphasizes the close integration of theory and practice, which not only achieves ideological unity, but also organically transforms theory into practical and feasible actions in practical work, providing a more innovative path for the Party’s ideological guidance; The second combination guides us to examine traditional culture with a broader perspective and recognize the inherent unity between tradition and reality. The combination of two emphasizes the dialectical relationship between the past and present, as well as the old and new, thus constructing a complete and organic combination. The idea of “two combinations” not only complements each other in theory and practice, but also forms an inseparable whole in various aspects of cultural inheritance and innovation, innovative thinking enhancement, and social governance. Therefore, the “two combinations” have profound significance for the inheritance

^① Theoretical Department of People’s Daily. Deeply Grasping the Essence of Xi Jin Ping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era [M]. Beijing: People’s Daily Press, 2019:93.

and innovation of the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, the improvement of innovative thinking, and the unity and timeliness of social governance, providing solid and organic theoretical guidance and practical reference for the continuous development of Marxism in China.

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