

# A Review of Chen Hansheng's Rural Social Surveys in Recent Ten Years

Xiaorui Wang, Leiming Zhou\*

School of Marxism, China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing 211100, China

## Abstract

**In the 1920s and 1930s, under the guidance of Marxism, Chen Hansheng carried out social surveys in rural China. The surveys contributed to the resolution of the economic crisis in rural China and the development of the Chinese revolution. In the past ten years, the academic circles have made some achievements in research on the historical significance and academic thoughts of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys. To further study Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, we can start from three aspects: comprehensively sorting out historical materials, carrying out critical research and exploring practical significance.**

## Keywords

**Chen Hansheng; Rural Social Survey ; Review.**

## 1. Introduction

The annexation of rural land was an increasingly serious problem in China, agricultural production shrank, and farmers lived in extreme poverty. In order to solve the rural crisis, all sectors of society have carried out a series of rural social surveys, which set off an upsurge of research on rural areas, farmers and agriculture. The Marxist rural social surveys led by Chen Hansheng not only demonstrated the semi-colonial and semi-feudal social nature of China, but also trained a group of Marxist economists and sociologists, made contributions to the Sinicization of Marxism. In the past ten years, the academic circles have studied the characteristics, historical significance and academic thoughts of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, summing up these academic achievements are helpful for scholars to further study Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys.

## 2. Research on the Significance of Chen Hansheng's Rural Social Surveys

Through collecting historical materials, scholars introduced the background, content and characteristics of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, and discussed the historical significance of rural social surveys. Zhao Xiaoyang reviewed the process of the rural social surveys conducted by Chen Hansheng in Wuxi, Baoding and Guangdong, summed up the characteristic of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys is focusing on the relationship of production, and pointed out that through the rural social surveys, Chen Hansheng not only obtained the scientific judgment on the nature of semi colonial and semi feudal society in rural areas in China, but also cultivated a Marxist economics and society theoretical team. Sun Xiaoli generalized the background and process of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, and emphasized that Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys were extensive and in-depth social surveys conducted to study the nature of Chinese society under the guidance of Marxism. Ren Xia summed up significance of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys: first, combining Marxist political economy and China's reality; second, training a professional theoretical team and a group of Marxist economists; third, having reference significance to solve the problem of current rural.

By comparing various rural surveys in 1920s and 1930s, scholars further explored the significance of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys. In this period, in addition to Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, the main participants in the rural surveys included institutions of higher learning, research institutions, the Kuomintang government, the Communist Party and Japan's Manchu Railway. The purposes and methods of these rural surveys were different, and the conclusions were different. But objectively, they left valuable data for future rural research in China. Wu Liang made a comparative study on the rural social surveys of Bu Kai and Chen Hansheng. Due to different understandings of rural land ownership, land rent form and land rent rate, bu Kai proposed to improve agricultural technology to solve rural problems, while Chen Hansheng stressed that land revolution was the only way to solve rural problems. Wu Liang analyzed the rationality of the two conclusions, concluded that the agricultural theories of Chen Hansheng and Bukai played guiding roles in China's agricultural policies in different periods. By comparing the methods and characteristics of Mao Zedong's and Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, Sun Feiyan affirmed their historical contributions to the rural social surveys, that is, restoring the overall appearance of China's rural society at that time, and affirming the nature of semi-colonial and semi-feudal society in modern China.

### **3. Research on Chen Hansheng's Academic Thoughts Reflected in Rural Social Surveys**

As an economist, historian and sociologist of Marxist school, Chen Hansheng presided over the rural social surveys in 1920s and 1930s in China, analyzed the cause of rural poverty and backwardness in China, and proposed that the agrarian revolution was the solution to rural problems. The academic research on the academic thoughts reflected in Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys mainly include three aspects: historical thought, economic thought and sociological thought.

He Wanyu combed Chen Hansheng's historical thought and methodology, and pointed out that Chen Hansheng took historical materialism as the guiding method in his research practice, and always understood reality through history, it gives important practical significance to the study of history. Wang Dandan studied the characteristics and historical status of Chen Hansheng's economic thought. She thought that Chen Hansheng's economic thought was based on the scientific theory of Marxism, on the basis of investigation and practice, and on the basis of economic laws. In addition, Wang Dandan also pointed out the limitation of Chen Hansheng's economic thought, that is, overemphasizing the relations of production and neglecting the productive forces. Cai Qilong comprehensively clarified the background and process of Chen Hansheng's economic thought, summarized its theoretical contribution and international influence, and creatively pointed out the three enlightenments of Chen Hansheng's economic thought for modern times: first, the academic purpose of Chen Hansheng and other CPC scholars is worth learning and inheriting; second, Chen Hansheng's methods of rural disaster relief and agricultural production increase in agricultural production are still worth learning and inheriting; third, Chen Hansheng's thoughts on agricultural mechanization and collective farms need continue to explore and practice. Wu Jie systematically discussed Chen Hansheng's sociological thought, introduced the concept, development process and characteristics of Chen Hansheng's sociological thought in detail. He thought that Chen Hansheng's sociological thought has laid a good theoretical and methodological foundation for the development of modern sociology in China, and has important reference and research value.

#### 4. Research on China Rural Economic Research Association and Rural China

China Rural Economic Research Association was established in 1933. It was a non-governmental academic group that studied rural issues under the guidance of Marxism. Most members of the association have participated in the rural social survey organized by Chen Hansheng. Rural China was an important journal sponsored by the Association. Scholars mainly study from the development process and historical significance of the association, and the value of Rural China.

Sun Lu studied the background, members, activities and the impact of the establishment of the association. She pointed out that the association had an important impact on the rural development of China, the formation of rural policies and rural development after the founding of the Communist Party of China. Wang Xiaosi not only combed the whole process of the establishment of the China Rural Economic Research Association, but also positioned the association, explored its academic characteristics, survival strategies and its relationship with the Communist Party of China. Fan Tiequan and Ma Shirong focused on the historical achievements of association in knowledge dissemination and academic research, to make up for the deficiencies of previous studies. Gong Yaqi further expanded and deepened the depth and breadth of the research of China Rural Economic Research Association. He hoped that, through the study of China Rural Economic Research Association, the overall appearance of Marx doctrine in China could be presented as much as possible, and the academic circles could understand the content of Marx doctrine in China.

At present, the academic research on magazine Rural China is mostly to introduce the background, purpose and development process of Rural China, and to explore its historical value. Bi Geng, Liu Yang and Tan Shengjie studied Rural China from three aspects: the general situation of its publication, ideological debate and historical evaluation. Zhu Yinghong focused on the important role of Rural China in the debate on the nature of rural in China by sorting out the events of the debate on the nature of rural in China. In addition, she also emphasized the role of Rural China in promoting the formation of new democratic theory and the construction of new democratic society.

If you follow the “checklist” your paper will conform to the requirements of the publisher and facilitate a problem-free publication process.

#### 5. Summary and Reflection

From the research results in the past ten years, the academic research on Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys is not limited to the introductory research, but also develops in the direction of multi angle and multi-disciplinary. However, compared with the outstanding historical contribution of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, the current research still has the following deficiencies.

On the one hand, there is a lack of research on the practical significance of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys. The rural social surveys organized by Chen Hansheng were large in scale and scientific in method, which demonstrated the semi-colonial and semi-feudal social nature of modern China and promoted the development of Sinicization of Marxism. At present, the academic circles have made some achievements in the research of rural social surveys, but most of them are to introduce the background and content of rural social surveys and summarize the historical significance. On the other hand, the use of Chen Hansheng's rural social survey data is not enough. Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys involved many regions in China, and there are relevant survey reports in each area. At present, scholars mostly focus on the survey data of Wuxi and Baoding, but little research on the survey data of other places.

I believe that the in-depth study of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys can start from the following aspects: First, expanding the research vision, in addition to discussing the history and analyzing the characteristics, but also to further explore the practical significance of Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys, so as to provide reference for the development of the current rural social surveys. Secondly, making a comprehensive survey of different areas and make a comparative study of the relevant data. Finally, making a critical study on Chen Hansheng's rural social surveys from the academic angle, analyzing the shortcomings in the process of investigation, and enriching the research results.

## References

- [1] Zhao Xiaoyang: Surveys and Social Significance of Marxist Rural Economy Led by Chen Hansheng, League Report, Vol.7(2019).
- [2] Sun Xiaoli: Chen Hansheng and Research on Chinese Rural Society, Democracy and Science, (2012) No.3,p.8-12.
- [3] Ren xia: The Significance of Chen Hansheng's Rural Surveys in the 1920s and 1930s, Journal of PuYang Vocational and Technical College, Vol25(2012)No5.p.43-45.
- [4] Wu Liang: Bu Kai and Chen Hansheng: A Comparison of Rural Surveys from 1920s to 1930s(MS. East China Normal University, China,2010).
- [5] He Wanyu: Chen Hansheng's Marxist Historical View, Historical theory research,(2016) No.2,p.110-119 + 160.
- [6] Wang Dandan: Research on Chen Hansheng's Rural Economic Thought(MS. Zhengzhou University, China,2014).
- [7] Cai Qilong: Research on Chen Hansheng's Economic Thought during the Republic of China(MS. Tsinghua University, China,2016).
- [8] Wu Jie: Research on Chen Hansheng's Sociological Thoughts in 1930s(MS. Guangxi Normal University, China,2018).
- [9] Fan Tiequan, Ma Shirong: Knowledge Dissemination and Academic Research -- Focusing on China Rural Economic Research Association, Agricultural Archaeology,(2012)No.06,p. 278-282.
- [10] Gong Yaqi: Exploration and Research on the Sinicization of Marxism by China Rural Economic Research Association(MS. China University of Petroleum (East China),China,2017).