

The Contemporary Value of Mao Zedong's United Front Theory

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Abstract

Based on the theories and strategies of Marx and Leninism on the united front, Mao Zedong combined them with the reality of China's new democratic revolution and the construction of the socialist cause, with the practice of China's revolutionary war and socialist construction, and formed a practical and original theory of the united front with Chinese characteristics. It is the unity of practicality and science, which guided the Chinese people not in different historical periods, using the great power of the united front to greatly promote the victory of the Chinese revolutionary war and the socialist construction. In the new stage of socialist construction with Chinese characteristics today, it still has great ideological inspiration and practical significance for us to better play the role of the united front.

Keywords

Mao Zedong Thought; United Front; Two Alliances.

1. The Formation and Development of Mao Zedong's United Front Theory

The formation and development of Mao Zedong's united front theory has gone through three main periods.

1.1. From the Founding of the Party to the Convening of the Zunyi Conference

During this period, the Party's knowledge and understanding of the united front was very one-sided and not deep. The main reasons for this were the lack of theoretical construction and experience in the revolutionary struggle, the lack of understanding of the peculiarities of Chinese society and revolution, the erroneous guiding line implemented by individual leaders, and the blind and passive acceptance of the orders of the Communist International, all of which caused many obstacles to the development of the united front but also provided the soil and fertilizer for the formation and development of the united front theory. The theoretical achievements of Mao Zedong's united front theory in this period were: analysis of the special nature of Chinese society, the special composition of the Chinese revolutionary structure, the Chinese Communist Party and the leadership of the united front. But since the Party was in the early stage of revolution, Mao Zedong's united front theory was not generally accepted within the Party.

1.2. From 1935 to the Founding of New China in 1949

The biggest change in this period was the change of the main contradictions in domestic society, which led to the adjustment of the whole Party's working line and illustrated that our Party began to continuously enhance the scientific and proactive nature of the United Front policy according to the reality of Chinese society. One is the establishment of the anti-Japanese national united front, the understanding of the revolutionary leadership of the united front, the policy toward the democratic parties, the approach toward the different strata, and the view toward the international community. Secondly, the opening of the Second Front in the National Unification Area marked that the CCP had increasingly applied the theory of the United Front flexibly, including in-depth contacts and interactions with ethnic minorities, overseas Chinese,

the international community, and democratic parties, greatly expanding our Party's influence and demonstrating that our Party's policy and line had been embraced by the broadest Chinese people.

1.3. After the Founding of New China in 1949

With the change of the main contradictions in Chinese society, the united front work in this period was no longer a simple line of uniting friends and eliminating enemies, but how to mobilize the broadest number of people's enthusiasm to join the socialist construction. The main focus of work was the establishment of the Chinese political consultation system, the relations between the Chinese and non-Party democrats, the arrangements for the national bourgeoisie in the socialist transformation, the implementation of the policy of regional national autonomy, and China's foreign relations with the KMT Taiwan authorities and the international community. Among them were Mao Zedong's "On the Ten Relations" published in the People's Daily on April 25, 1956, and the important speech "On the Correct Handling of the Internal Contradictions of the People" issued by the Supreme State Council in February 1957, which became the general platform of the Party's united front line in the new era. Subsequently, with the expansion of the anti-rightist struggle and the erroneous development of the Cultural Revolution, the Party's united front work and foreign relations in China were damaged to a great extent, which was corrected after the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee.

2. The Main Content of Mao Zedong's United Front Theory

The united front is a magic weapon for the Chinese Communist Party to seize victory, as well as for socialist transformation and socialist construction. It is impossible to achieve victory in the Chinese revolution by the power of the proletariat alone as a class. Nor is it possible to achieve success in socialist transformation and construction after the revolutionary victory. The Chinese Communist Party must unite all possible classes and strata under various circumstances and organize a united front that accounts for the vast majority of the population of the entire nation.

2.1. Developing a Broad United Front and Building Two Alliances

The first alliance is that of the working class with the peasant class, the intellectuals in general and other workers. This is the basis of the united front. The second alliance is the alliance of the working class, the peasant class and all laborers with all non-workers who can be united. This is also an important and indispensable alliance, and the central issue of this alliance is the correct handling of relations with the bourgeoisie. With this alliance, it is conducive to our Party's efforts to win over all intermediate forces and friends who can cooperate, and to achieve the goal of maximizing its own strength and isolating its main enemies.

2.2. Adherence to the Leadership of the Communist Party over the United Front

The leadership of the party depends mainly on the correct line, policy and the exemplary and pioneering role of its members, and it has to fight to unite all kinds of different allies and take care of their interests, while giving political education to improve them. In the united front, it is the bourgeoisie that competes with the proletariat for leadership. The bourgeoisie should be united and fought at the same time, to prevent both the "left" error of fighting without uniting and the right error of uniting without fighting. We must make a correct analysis of the different forces in the united front and adopt a correct policy. Without the leadership of the Communist Party of China, no revolutionary united front will be able to win.

2.3. Adhere to the Combination of Principle and Flexibility

The united front is a broad alliance of different classes, strata, parties and groups. Within the united front, there is both unity on the basis of common interests and demands and contradictions and struggles arising from their different interests and demands. Proletarian parties in the united front must maintain their political and organizational independence and adhere to the party's steel leaders, line and strategic goals. However, the methodological steps to be taken to achieve the party's program and goals need to be applied flexibly according to the specific situation. The principle of united front work must be firm, but there must also be all the flexibility permitted and necessary to achieve the principle.

2.4. Distinguish between Two Types of Contradictions of Different Nature, Namely, between the Enemy and us and Within the People

After the end of the large-scale mass class struggle, the correct handling of the internal contradictions of the people became the theme of the political life of the country. The nature of the two types of contradictions is different, and the methods of solving them are also different. There are also two kinds of intra-people contradictions: class contradictions and non-class contradictions, and the contradictions with the national bourgeoisie belong to intra-people contradictions. All intra-people contradictions are dealt with in the way of unity-criticism-unity, that is, starting from the desire for unity, the contradiction is resolved through criticism or struggle, so that a new unity can be reached on a new basis.

3. Historical Significance of Mao Zedong's United Front Theory

Mao Zedong's theory of the united front is an important part of Mao Zedong's thought and is the crystallization of the Party's collective wisdom. It is a combination of many theories and practices of the Chinesization of Marxism based on the composition and historical traditions of social classes and ethnic categories in Chinese society, the current development of international relations in China, etc. It was gradually formed and developed in the practice of the long and arduous Chinese revolutionary war and construction, on the basis of constantly summarizing the stage successes and failures of our Party's united front, and in the environment of constantly drawing on the practical experience of the united front outside China and the development of international politics. The development of Mao Zedong's united front theory reflects the importance and progress of the Party's theoretical construction and leadership of the united front work, and also greatly promotes the development of the Party's united front work and foreign relations.

For this reason, summarizing and drawing on the rich harmonious concept contained in Mao Zedong's united front thought is important for us to seize the main contradictions of contemporary Chinese society, coordinate the interests of increasingly divided classes, consolidate the domestic united front, devote ourselves to building a harmonious society, create a harmonious domestic environment for China's economic and social development, establish a broad international united front, strengthen international exchanges and cooperation, and create a harmonious environment for China's peaceful rise of China to create a harmonious international environment is of great theoretical and practical inspiration.

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