

Retrospect and Reflection on the Disintegration of the Soviet Union

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Abstract

The disintegration of the Soviet Union, the biggest political event in the world since World War II, has been called by Putin as the biggest geopolitical disaster of the last century. This article attempts to re-examine the process of the disintegration of the Soviet Union and analyze its reasons, and draw lessons from the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the new situation of complex international and domestic relations, so as to provide reference for China's socialist construction and reform.

Keywords

Disintegration of the Soviet Union; Gorbachev; Stalin Model; Soviet Economic Reform.

1. Introduction

At nine o'clock in the evening on December 25, 1991, the joy of Christmas has not dissipated in Western countries. The then US President Bush (BUSH SENIOR) delivered a national speech, declaring the victory of the United States in the Cold War, and at the same time, it also declared. The victory of liberal ideology represented by the United States and other Western countries. New systems are always born out of old systems. Dramatically, unlike the October Revolution that happened in the Soviet Union, in this "revolution" in the Soviet Union, history replaced the socialist system that had been operating in this alliance for sixty-nine years with the capitalist system. As the first socialist country in the world, the establishment of the Soviet Union was a solid step towards the reality of scientific socialism, and created the miracle of the October Revolution across the capitalist Kafudin Gorge. At that time, Soviet Russia, as the "least developed capitalist country in Europe", was full of twists and turns in the process of the three transformations of the system in the process of crossing the stage of capitalist development and directly entering the socialist system.

2. The Soviet Union on the Eve of Evolution

2.1. Dissolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU

Some scholars have pointed out that Gorbachev played a double-edged role in the August 19 incident, that is, Gorbachev attempted to recapture the lost political power by suppressing the democratic opposition through this coup. It is true that Gorbachev's radical reforms touched too many vested interests. The dissatisfaction of the senior officials with the new alliance treaty directly led to this crazy move. They wanted to use this to blackmail Gordon to return to the situation before the reform. Unexpectedly, Gordon risked his life for nothing. move. What's more, the coup d'état directly led to the dissolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU, thus making the communist parties of the Union Republics exist in name only. The CPSU lost its credibility in the Soviet Union, the crisis of belief broke out in an all-round way, the party members were disillusioned, and the CPSU lost its 74-year-old ruling party status. Life can no

longer continue to survive. As the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Gorbachev should be the helm of the "absolute truth" of the Soviet Republic's ideology. Although people cannot directly read his voice, it is obvious that his beliefs have changed from his words and deeds in the past few years in power. One month after dissolving the CPSU Central Committee, he met with the International Socialist Party delegation, and explained the reasons for his inconsistency in his words and deeds, and criticized communism openly. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, we can't tell from Gorbachev's public words and deeds that he was a staunch communist, as if he had become a hidden capitalist. Although Gorbachev expressed his belief in "socialism" from time to time, in fact he had betrayed the lofty beliefs of Marxism, and his actions had nothing to do with the doctrine of scientific socialism. These situations fully illustrate Gorbachev. of hypocrisy and his inner contradictions.

2.2. The Belovezh Agreement

The Belovezh Agreement signed in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, not only announced the establishment of the CIS, but also directly announced the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It is worth noting that the fatal unconstitutional flaw of this document was not used by Gorbachev to fight back, which also confirms the cowardice and incompetence of the Soviet president from the side. The Ukrainian referendum on December 1, 1991 played an important role in the promotion of this agreement, and the high reliance on each other generated by the high exchange of resources among the several larger federal republics during the Soviet Union prevented the Soviet Union from transforming into An alliance that lacks any of the major republics, which means that if one of them declares independence, the whole alliance falls apart. This referendum also directly led to the signing of the Belovezh Agreement, and indirectly declared that the disintegration of the Soviet Union was possible or even inevitable. For the leaders of the East Slavic republics, all they need is a platform for communication, not an alliance that binds their hands and feet.

3. Two Reasons for the Collapse of the Soviet Union

3.1. The Inevitable Result of the Rigid Stalinist Model

Stalin's policy of "letting the NEP go away" announced in 1929, to a certain extent, also laid the foreshadowing of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It is true that during the nearly 30 years when Stalin was in charge of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Soviet Union developed a Stalinist model known as rigidity, which imprisoned the ideological consciousness of the country so much that the reforms of subsequent leaders did not go well. The huge Soviet Union did not lack capable people to promote reform, but the system rejected the instinct of reform - counter-reform. After the cessation of Khrushchev's reforms in 1964, the state system actually returned to the original Stalinist model during the Brezhnev period. The system was almost immutable, and its extreme control over every sector of the state also strongly contributed to the eventual disintegration. Its internal logic is: with the passage of time, the development of a country will inevitably require continuous self-reform to adapt to the changes in national conditions and times, and the original system must be revised, but the leaders of the Soviet Union of various generations have no ability or courage Even completely unaware of the seriousness of the problem, in order to implement sweeping reforms. Polish scholar Vladimir Bruce equates Stalinism with the Stalin model, and believes that after Stalin's death, the Soviet Union and the entire Eastern European communist camp began to adjust the policy of the "New Approach". His view obviously underestimated Stalin's influence , both for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. After Stalin's death, none of the top leaders of the Soviet Union had the absolute authority to match him. It should be noted that no matter how good the system is, it also needs realistic soil cultivation. Although the CPSU has made some amendments later, its general policy has not changed. History has proved that, at least among the top core members

of the Soviet Union, no one tried to make substantial changes to the fundamental system of this model.

The Soviet Union also had a creative system. Taking Lenin's period as an example, from an objective evaluation, Lenin's later New Economic Policy and some ideas of scientific socialism in his later years are generally in line with the conditions of Soviet Russia. Lenin sought to combine Marxism with Russian reality, which was a big step forward in theory, but his successor, Stalin, not only distorted the understanding of the NEP and prematurely ended the NEP, but also in the late 1930s, a vulgarized Marxist socialist model, the Stalin model, was formed within the Soviet Union. The Stalinist model regarded the development of light industry as the wrong line of capitalism, and considered the peasants to be petty bourgeoisie with feudal remnants. In order to accelerate the primitive accumulation and development of heavy industry, the peasants were given a heavy burden such as widening the gap of scissors, making agricultural development extremely difficult. slow. One of the best examples of this fact is that after the abolition of the New Economic Policy, the total agricultural output fell by 18.5% between 1928 and 1933. Ryzhkov once asked, "Why should Moscow decide how many pantyhose and shirts a factory in Dnipropetrovsk (now Ukraine) is scheduled to produce?" This pointedly pointed out that the Stalinist model was overly planned economy Shortcomings. This development model is unsuccessful as a socialist construction model. The highly centralized political and economic system lacks vigor and vitality, which seriously affects the enthusiasm of the people. Under such conditions, the social productive forces could not obtain the driving force for sustainable development. Therefore, although the failure of the Soviet Union had a certain historical accident, it was generally inevitable.

3.2. Gorbachev's Reforms

Brezhnev's abandonment of the reform to abolish tenure for cadres determined the aging trend of the leaders of the late Soviet Union. The average age of the 14 Politburo members elected at the 26th Congress of the CPSU is 70.2 years old, and the re-election rate of the Central Committee members is as high as 89%. The frequent replacement of the top leaders of the party and the state after Britannica made the continuity of the Soviet Union's foreign policy not guaranteed. Under the critical situation of "no choice", the first top leader of the Soviet Union born after the October Revolution— - The young Gorbachev came to power smoothly as the successor of the compromises of all parties.

The final disintegration of the Soviet Union, no matter from which angle is analyzed, the reforms that Gorbachev implemented at the beginning of his coming to power can be described as "contributed". Gorbachev's reforms were not off the right track in the early days. During the three-year period from 1986 to 1988, the national income of the Soviet Union increased by 11.6%, the industrial output value increased by 13.3%, and the scale of capital construction increased by more than 33% compared with the previous five-year plan. At the same time, the Soviet economy began to meet the needs of residents. However, in the later period of the reform, the unstable situation caused by the reform of the political system, the increasingly acute ethnic conflicts, the interruption of economic ties caused by the Republic's own initiative, and the lack of attention to the serious people's livelihood problems caused by the reform, all heralded the ultimate failure of the reform. Between 1985 and 1990, prices rose rapidly in the Soviet Union. Especially in the last year of the reform, the price of most food products was tripled in the consumer cooperative system and in the market of collective farms, and the despair of life made the Soviet people increasingly favor more radical reform programs. At the critical juncture of reform, Gorbachev, the supreme leader, did not turn the tide. His unsteady consciousness makes his opinion subject to all parties and changes day by day. His myriad promises are in stark contrast to his inaction. Gordon's repeated bombastic speeches gradually lost popular

support, and the party and the country became increasingly divided, and the reform eventually failed.

4. Reflections on the Soviet Union

4.1. Radical Reform of the Soviet Union and Gradual Reform of China

In 2004, after the funeral of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Li Zhaoxing, a former Chinese foreign minister, ran into Gorbachev and asked with interest the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union. In this regard, Gorbachev paused for a moment and replied thoughtfully: "Among the leaders of various countries, the one I admire the most is Mr. Deng Xiaoping. And we don't have a Deng Xiaoping there." Gorbachev was obviously stabbed. pain. It is worth mentioning that Gorbachev, who was later proposed to be prosecuted by deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, must have had a complicated mind at that time. Putin, who has experienced the Soviet Union and served as the Russian president four times, when talking about the Soviet Union, like other leaders who have served at the top of the Soviet Union, expressed that he misses the Soviet Union but does not want to restore the Soviet Union. This may show that the Soviet Union's system is indeed true. There are huge drawbacks, and its short-lived legacy in history can only be left to future generations to remember.

As a country that once followed Stalin's model before the reform and opening up, China's disintegration of the Soviet Union has objectively left us a valuable wealth of experience. China's reform and opening-up policy and the New Economic Policy proposed by Lenin are in the same line in the overall thinking and have a historical leap. They are the product of dialectically inheriting Lenin's New Economic Policy and Marx's economic outlook. China's development model mainly refers to the system, system, development concept, development strategy, development path and basic experience that we have formed since the reform and opening up. In fact, it is socialism with Chinese characteristics. Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and socialism in the Mao Zedong period are not separated. The former evolved from the latter, and the problems of the Soviet model also exist more or less in contemporary China. Therefore, our country has always firmly believed that Reforms are always going on, even though the present is very different from the socialism of the Soviet era.

When the people are enjoying the fruitful results of reform and opening up, they always miss its chief designer Deng Xiaoping. At a time when the country was waiting to be rebuilt, and amid the voices at home and abroad, the Party Central Committee, the second generation of the party's leading collective, with Comrade Deng Xiaoping as the core, decisively and accurately adopted epoch-making policies and guidelines, and the tide of reform surged. It should be pointed out that history has its limitations. The great thing about Deng Xiaoping is that he can break through the limitations of history to a certain extent. There will also be unexpected results on the way to reform. The contribution made by the second generation of leaders with Deng Xiaoping at the core is enormous. China's reform and opening up has also attracted Vietnam's learning. Vietnam's reforms started in the 1980s also drew on China's experience and achieved great success. good results.

4.2. Discussions on the Soviet Union by Chinese Party and State Leaders of Various Generations

Since the reform and opening up, the Communist Party of China has adhered to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, especially the proposal and implementation of the "Four Persistences", which has consolidated the advanced position of the ruling party of the Communist Party of China. Referring to the Soviet Union, Deng Xiaoping said: "The Soviet Union has been working on it for many years, and it has not been fully understood. Perhaps Lenin had a better idea and implemented a new economic policy, but then the Soviet model became rigid."

Jiang Zemin commented on the Soviet Union, "After more than 70 years of socialist construction, the Soviet Union has undergone a tragedy of drastic changes, and finally disintegrated and collapsed. Why is this? The reasons and lessons need to be comprehensively and profoundly summarized. Summed up, Marxism-Lenin There will be new developments in ideology." On November 12, 2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the second plenary session of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, expressing his views on the problems existing in the development of the Soviet Union. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: "In fact, how to govern a brand-new society such as a socialist society has not been solved well in the past world socialism. Marx and Engels did not encounter the practice of comprehensively governing a socialist country. Many social principles are predictive; Lenin passed away shortly after the October Revolution in Russia and did not have time to explore this issue in depth; the Soviet Union explored this issue and gained some practical experience, but also made serious mistakes, did not solve the problem."

Reform and opening up is an important magic weapon for the party and the people to keep pace with the times. After Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party of China further put forward the new theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism, such as the "Important Thought of Three Represents" and the "Scientific Outlook on Development", which greatly helped China to inherit the Stalinist model and the Stalinist system. As the representative of the Soviet socialist system, and thus embarked on the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. In contemporary times, China has gone through more than 40 years of reform, and reform has entered a critical period and a deep-water area. The leadership of the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core is adhering to the sustainable development of the theory and practice centered on economic construction. , with greater political courage and wisdom to promote comprehensive and deepen reform. In the face of the most serious infectious disease pandemic in the world in a century, the Party Central Committee took the overall situation and responded to the extraordinary events with extraordinary measures. During this epidemic, it has also demonstrated to the world and the people my country's institutional advantages. The safety of people's lives has been protected to the maximum extent possible. History and reality tell us that only by upholding and strengthening the party's overall leadership can we calmly handle various complex situations and risks and challenges.

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