

Connotation. Logic. Value: An Analysis of Xi Jinping's View of Struggle in the New Era

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Abstract

Xi Jinping's concept of struggle in the new era provides a scientific answer to the question of what struggle is, for whom struggle and who should struggle. It has a deep logical support. The Marxist concept of struggle, the problems and challenges faced by China in the process of development, and Xi Jinping's unique personal growth experience are the main logical reasons for the formation of Xi Jinping's new-era concept of struggle. Learning and practicing Xi Jinping's concept of struggle in the new era will provide us with important theoretical guidance for solving development problems, strengthening ideals and beliefs, and achieving great rejuvenation.

Keywords

Xi Jinping; New Era; Concept of Struggle.

1. Introduction

Since the 18th National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has made many statements on the issue of struggle. With the profound vision and wise judgment of a Marxist theorist, he has made a comprehensive and systematic decision and deployment on the theoretical and practical issue of how to continue to maintain the posture of struggle in the new era, and has made a profound interpretation of the scientific connotation, logical reasoning and value implications of the concept of struggle, forming Xi Jinping's concept of struggle in the new era. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi Jinping's concept of struggle can be better internalized and externalized in the new era by profoundly grasping it from these three aspects.

2. Scientific Connotation

2.1. What is Struggle - The Essence of Struggle

In terms of the essence of struggle, Xi Jinping made a scientific interpretation of this issue from the requirement that struggle should be realized with pragmatism and excellent skills.

First of all, struggle is not a mouth work, but a pragmatic and sincere action. The so-called pragmatic and sincere, that is, the real grasp of practical work, down-to-earth. As the old saying goes, "Things are born in thinking, become in service, lose in pride." The realization of the dream is not by waiting and shouting to come, but by hard work and practical work. Empty talk misleads the country, and practical work makes the country prosperous. The Chinese nation has grown from poverty and weakness in modern times to prosperity and strength today, relying on real work, hard work and persistent struggle. At the party's 95th anniversary celebration, Xi Jinping stressed that "our party has gone through 95 years, but we must always maintain the spirit of struggle of the communists when the party was founded, and always maintain the heart of the people"[1]. To carry forward the spirit of nail, hammer after hammer knocking, until the development of the road of difficult obstacles knocked down, not to do useless work, do not go backward, and actually do the work well, to the real thing, to stand the test of practice, the people as well as history. Struggle is the soul, practical work is the base, the

soul of struggle only attached to the base of practical work, in order to achieve the great renaissance.

Secondly, struggle is not an abstract concept, but a strong skill. The so-called excellent skills are to be able to assess the development situation from the changes in time and space, and to be able to crack the risk challenges on the road with solid skills and scientific thinking. In the era of change, treacherous clouds, if there is no strong skills, only the spirit of struggle, it will only be in vain to empty words, sitting and talking, and will eventually achieve nothing. For more than 40 years since the reform and opening up, the Party led the people to achieve great achievements is the fundamental reason is to be able to be pragmatic and practical, and constantly develop excellent skills. General Secretary Xi Jinping in the 19th Party Congress report on the hard skills also gave an important discussion, "leading a socialist country with a population of more than 1.3 billion people, we must be politically tough and highly competent, and must enhance the learning of all aspects of the skills" [2]. Having excellent skills is both an important support for the Party to lead the people to keep moving forward and a realistic requirement of Xi Jinping's new era of struggle.

2.2. For Whom to Struggle - The Purpose of Struggle

On the question of who to strive for, General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a scientific explanation at two levels: one is to meet the growing needs of the people for a better life; the other is to achieve the prosperity of the country.

On the individual side, people's need for a better life is the goal that our Party always strives for. History is made by the people, and the prerequisite for making history is to be able to meet the basic needs of individual life. As the classic Marxist-Leninist writers said, "people must be able to survive in order to create history, but in order to survive, first need some basic material means of production and living such as food, clothing, shelter and transportation" [3]. The question of why people is the litmus test of the nature of a political party and a regime, and the Chinese Communist Party has always been based on the people since its inception. General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized the goal of constantly meeting the people's aspirations for a better life since he came to power. For example, in his speech at the First Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, he said, "Seeking happiness for the people is the Party's original intention. We must always remember this original intention and always take the people's aspiration for a better life as the goal of struggle" [4]. In commemorating the 200th anniversary of Marx's birth, it was again mentioned that "all our struggles are ultimately aimed at meeting the people's aspiration for a better life."

In terms of the country, the goal is to achieve a moderately prosperous society by the 100th year of the Party and to build a modern socialist power by the 100th year of the country, that is, the two 100-year goal. In the report of the 19th Party Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed the two centennial goals based on the current development situation at home and abroad and China's own development conditions, which is not only the embodiment of people's aspiration for a better life, but also the manifestation of the Party's original mission. The realization of this goal is not easy, the opportunity is unprecedented, the challenge is also unprecedented, in the face of the first century goal to be achieved, we must always maintain the sense of worry, uphold the spirit of struggle, calmly deal with various risks and challenges. At the same time, the two hundred-year goal is also the inheritance and development of the strategic goal of modernization since the founding of New China and the blueprint and great expectation of the future development of the Chinese nation, which profoundly reflects the ambition and firm belief of the Party and people to achieve national rejuvenation, national prosperity and people's happiness.

2.3. Who Should Struggle - The Driving Force of Struggle

To this question, General Secretary Xi Jinping has given a scientific and clear answer from two aspects: the leader and the main body of struggle.

From the point of view of the leaders of the struggle, the communists are not only the vanguard of building the socialist cause, but also the vanguard of the unremitting struggle for the original mission. Marx and Engels pointed out that "as far as practice is concerned, the Communists are the most resolute and always driving part of the workers' parties in all countries" [5]. This is due to the fact that communists take Marxism as their theoretical guide, while peoplehood is the political stance of Marxism, and Marxist parties always take the realization of the fundamental interests of the people as their goal of struggle. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "the CPC, as a Marxist party, has always abided by the people's stand, and this is precisely the important mark that distinguishes it from other political parties"[6]. It is through adherence to the people's stand that the fine tradition of hard work of the Chinese Communists has been inherited and continued and the initial heart of serving the people has been maintained, enabling them to play a pioneering and exemplary leadership role in leading the people on their journey to achieve great rejuvenation in the new era.

From the viewpoint of the main body of struggle, the people are the main body of history-making. The history of the development of the Chinese nation and the history of the ideas of Chinese civilization have been created and written by the people. The great leap of the Chinese nation from standing up, getting rich to getting strong is due to the great struggle of the people. Xi Jinping pointed out: "Now, everything that the people have embodies the wisdom of the Chinese people, is soaked with the sweat of their hard work, and contains the great sacrifice of the Chinese people. I believe that as long as more than 1.3 billion Chinese people continue to carry forward this great spirit of struggle, we will certainly achieve the great goal of creating a better life for the people"[7]. In the new era, to give play to the main role of the people in the struggle, we must first give play to the spirit of struggle of the youth groups, who are the driving force of China's development. General Secretary Xi Jinping inspected Inner Mongolia University in Hohhot, with ardent expectations for the students, "Strong youth is strong in China. The competition of the future is the competition of young people, and today's young people are the backbone and backbone to achieve the second century goal"[8]. As China's development enters a new era and faces new problems and contradictions, the people, especially the young generation, should take up the main role in the national struggle.

3. Theoretical Sources

It is a product of the interaction of history, reality and practice, and has its own specific logical rationale. The Marxist concept of struggle is the theoretical basis for its formation, the difficulties and challenges in China's development are the trend of the times for its formation, and Xi Jinping's personal growth experience is the line of practice for its formation.

3.1. Marxist Concept of Struggle - The Foundation of Theory

As the great leaders and pioneers of the proletariat, Marx and Engels spent their lives in unremitting struggle for the liberation of the proletariat and all mankind. Their concept of struggle is concentrated in three aspects. First, as far as the relationship between individual struggle and class struggle is concerned, Marx and Engels believed that individual struggle is the key factor for individual achievement and the prerequisite for individual action, while the struggle of the proletariat is the key condition for its ultimate victory. The prerequisite and foundation for the proletariat to achieve the goal of individual struggle is the class struggle of the proletariat, while the class struggle is the value of individual struggle. Secondly, in terms of the goal of struggle, whether it is individual struggle or class struggle, the most direct and

realistic goal is to obtain benefits in order to satisfy certain needs, while the ultimate goal of the proletariat is to achieve communism. Again, as far as the power of struggle is concerned, as Marx and Engels pointed out in the Manifesto, "Proletarians of the world unite"[9]! The realization of the goal of the liberation of the proletariat and all mankind depends on the united struggle of the world proletariat. The leadership of the proletarian parties is also necessary in uniting the proletariat in its struggle. As Engels wrote in his 1889 letter to Trier, "For the proletariat to triumph in the nick of time, it is necessary to form a proletarian-conscious party which is different and antagonistic to the other parties"[10]. In addition, Marx and Engels were aware of the power of other progressive classes and advocated unity with the progressive classes for all the forces that could be fought for.

3.2. Problems and Challenges Faced in China's Development Process - The Momentum of the Times

Problems are the catalyst for new ideas and concepts to emerge. As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, a series of development achievements are accompanied by the emergence of problems. These problems and challenges require that while we rejoice in the achievement of milestones, we must still uphold the spirit of hard work and struggle to achieve long-term development.

From the domestic situation, in the 40 years since the reform and opening up, China's economy and society have been developing rapidly and have made remarkable achievements in many aspects, but at the same time problems and challenges have come one after another. In the economic construction, there is a lack of innovative power, and the innovation trend in all aspects needs to be improved. In political construction, people's awareness and enthusiasm to participate in politics are generally lacking and not high; the legal system is not sound and there are some loopholes, which seriously damage the credibility of the judiciary among the people. In the cultural construction, the cultural system is not perfect and lacks effective management; the public cultural service system is not perfect, the implementation of cultural projects for the people is not strong enough, the awareness of cultural protection and inheritance is not high, the measures are not perfect, and a large amount of cultural heritage is neglected and destroyed. In terms of social construction, the development of urban and rural areas is still unbalanced and uncoordinated, and the problem of large development gap between urban and rural areas still exists. In terms of ecological construction, the current problem of unreasonable industrial structure makes the level of energy consumption high, the development of environmental protection and energy-saving industries is still not high; environmental pollution is still a serious problem, and the punishment and supervision are not strong enough.

From the perspective of the international environment, the complex and changing situation, the shift of the strategic focus of some of the world's major powers to the east, and the differences between the Chinese and Western systems have posed enormous international challenges to China's development. First of all, the international political struggle has intensified, and some countries, led by the United States, have tried to contain China's rise while witnessing its rapid development, and have taken various measures to suppress China; they have formulated the "Asia-Pacific Strategy" in order to strengthen their dominant position in the Asia-Pacific region, and have provoked unnecessary disputes between China and neighboring countries, both explicitly and implicitly. Through various means, it tries to disrupt the internal order of China's development from the outside, thus achieving the purpose of containing China and claiming hegemony for itself. Second, the difference in political systems has led to hostility and wariness toward China in terms of ideology. At present, there are only five socialist countries in the world, including China, and most of the rest have capitalist systems, and the two systems of capitalism and socialism have long been in opposition. Some capitalist countries in the West have a suspicious and critical attitude toward China, especially as China's development has revealed

the superiority of socialism, which has dealt a blow to the long-held sense of superiority of some countries with capitalist systems and created hostility toward China, thus affecting China's further development in the international arena.

3.3. Xi Jinping's Unique Personal Growth Experience - A Walk of Practice

Times are the mother of ideas, and practice is the source of theories. The emergence of an ideology is inseparable from the background of the times and the special life experience of the theorist. The formation of Xi Jinping's concept of struggle is precisely due to his unique upbringing and special background of the times.

At a young age, he was infected by the spirit of his parents' relentless struggle for the revolution and nurtured by a good family atmosphere. General Secretary Xi Jinping was born into a red revolutionary family, and his parents devoted their lives to the great revolutionary cause. His father, Xi Zhongxun, joined the revolutionary ranks when he was still a minor and made remarkable achievements. Although he was persecuted and imprisoned later because of Wang Ming's "leftism," he remained firm in his lofty belief in communism. In his birthday letter to his father, Xi Jinping said, "Whether during the White Terror or the extreme "leftist" period; whether under the control of others or in the midst of adversity, Dad remained steadfast in his belief in communism"[11]. My mother, Qi Xin, also joined the revolution when she was a teenager, and in the decades since then she has fought in the north and south of the country, still persistently fighting for the revolutionary cause. It is this parental spirit of unswerving struggle for the revolutionary cause that invariably translates into excellent family ethics in the process of educating their children and has had a profound impact on General Secretary Xi Jinping.

As a young man, Xi Jinping went to Liangjiahe in northern Shaanxi Province to begin his seven-year-long life as a youth. When he first arrived at Liangjiahe, he was confronted with the harsh natural environment and difficult living conditions: Liangjiahe is located on the Loess Plateau, with many ravines, few trees, a lot of wind, a lot of loess, few mountains and little land, and a shortage of food. The first is the "flea barrier", where people get bitten and itch more and more; the second is the "food barrier", where food shortages often make it difficult to eat. The last is the "labor hurdle", because growing up in the city, when he first arrived, he could not do farm work and could not adapt to the high intensity of labor; finally, the "ideological hurdle", because of his father and the huge differences in the rural environment caused a certain amount of pressure on the young Xi Jinping's heart. The last "ideological hurdle" was the pressure on young Xi Jinping's mind due to his father and the vast differences in the rural environment. Faced with these difficulties, Xi Jinping did not retreat, but became more determined. After becoming the secretary of the brigade, he led the villagers to build silt dams, biogas, scientific planting and agricultural tools production society, which were the vivid practice of his struggle. The hardships and setbacks that Xi Jinping experienced during his seven years as a youthful youth have created the first step in his life of struggle towards society of "toiling his heart, laboring his bones and starving his body".

During his political career after his studies, he went down to the grassroots level and took into account the people's feelings so that the spirit of struggle could be fully practiced and deepened. When Xi Jinping worked in Zhengding, Hebei, he integrated the spirit of hard work into every aspect of government governance. During his 17 years in Fujian, he continued to practice the spirit of struggle in his work, insisting on strict governance of officials, dealing seriously with cadres who violated the law and discipline, and promoting "real work", taking action on the spot to solve practical problems reflected by the public. When he was in charge of Zhejiang and in Shanghai, he summarized the implementation of the "Eight Strategies" to bring Zhejiang on the fast track of development, and visited the large and small districts and counties in Shanghai to plan for the development of Shanghai. After Xi Jinping was elected general secretary, he made

a solemn promise to the people: "We must always be close to the people, share the hardships with the people, unite with them, and work hard to give history and the people a qualified answer sheet"[12]. The spirit of struggle is elevated to the national and central levels and permeates all aspects of governance.

4. Value Implications

The great spirit is bred in the great era, and promote the development and progress of the great cause. Nowadays, we are facing many opportunities and challenges under the unprecedented change of the century, and it is more necessary to gather consensus and strength in ideology and consciousness. General Secretary Xi Jinping has made a series of important statements on struggle based on scientific study of the development trend of the times and profound grasp of the general situation of social development, which play an important theoretical value and practical significance in the new era.

4.1. Enriched and Developed the Marxist Concept of Struggle

Marx and Engels forged the concept of struggle in the great practice of their lives. The Marxist concept of struggle, by its very nature, is a process of struggle rooted in practice and constantly seeking to understand the truth and work for the interests of the vast majority of people. As the successor of Marxism and the Marxist theorist of the 21st century, General Secretary Xi Jinping has deepened and expanded the struggle in the practice of governance in the new era. From "People's aspiration for a better life is our goal of struggle" when answering questions from Chinese and foreign journalists, to "Empty talk misleads the country, but practical work builds the nation" when visiting the exhibition "The Road to Revival"; from "Having faith, having dreams, and having a good life" when speaking at the symposium for students and teachers at Peking University. "A life of conviction, dreams, struggle and dedication is a meaningful life" to "Aspirations are far-reaching and cannot be limited by mountains and seas" at the symposium for intellectuals, model workers and youth representatives; and from The achievements of China's development were created by the Chinese people with their own hands and achieved through the hard work and efforts of several generations" to "Struggle is hard, hardship is hard, the jade is hard, no hardship is not real struggle" in the Spring Festival Gathering in 2018. It is not a real struggle". This shows the importance of struggle in Xi Jinping's strategy of governing the country. Xi Jinping's concept of struggle in the new era is the application and development of the position, logic and value of the Marxist concept of struggle in the new era of construction practice, which enriches and expands the theoretical connotation of the Marxist concept of struggle.

4.2. Provides Methodological Guidance for Solving the Major Social Contradictions in the New Era

In the new period, the main social contradiction in China has been transformed into the contradiction between people's growing need for a better life and unbalanced and insufficient development. On the one hand, this change reflects the gradual diversification of people's demand levels, and the increasing demand in politics, culture and society, which is no longer limited to "having enough to eat and wearing warm clothes" but to "eating well and wearing good clothes" and "eating At the same time, the demand for medical care, education and health has also undergone historical changes. On the other hand, it also shows that there are still serious problems in the development. The uncoordinated and insufficient development of urban and rural areas and regions restricts the improvement of the overall development level; the uncoordinated overall layout of "Five-in-One" restricts the balance of the social development structure. "The problem is the strong voice of the times, and struggle is the way to solve the problem"[13]. General Secretary Xi Jinping has put struggle in all aspects of

governance, using it to create the future and gather strength. He pointed out, "The Chinese people are rich in the spirit of struggle. Since ancient times, the Chinese people have realized that there is no such thing as sitting on one's laurels in the world. To be happy, we must struggle. I believe that as long as more than 1.3 billion Chinese people continue to carry forward this great spirit of struggle, we will surely achieve the grand goal of creating a better life for the people"[14]. "At present, we are facing both important opportunities and unprecedented difficulties and challenges"[15], solving the problems on the way forward and achieving the goals in the development process require our continuous struggle, providing methodological guidance for the resolution of the main social contradictions in the new era.

4.3. Shows the Path to Achieve the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Dream

The Chinese dream is not only the dream of the country and the nation, but also the dream of each and every one of us Chinese people. Only when the country and the whole nation are well, each of us will be truly well. As long as everyone strives for a better dream, we can gather the majestic force to realize the Chinese Dream. Now, we are closer than ever to the realization of the great goal, and we have the confidence and ability to achieve it. At the same time, the problems and challenges we face are more complex and varied, so we cannot afford to slacken in the slightest, but must redouble our efforts and mobilize the people to continue the struggle for it. The dream lies ahead, the road is under our feet, and those who are self-sufficient are strong and self-reliant. The great dream is not easy to achieve by beating the drum, we need to really grasp the practical work, "the real grasp to overcome difficulties, practical work to make dreams come true [16]". Xi Jinping's concept of struggle in the new era is based on the actual development of China, rooted in the people and based on the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and constantly injects new connotations with the development and changes of the times, indicating the realistic path for the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese dream and providing a constant source of power support.

5. Conclusion

If you don't forget your original intention, you will not stop struggling; if you don't stop walking, you will not stop moving forward. In more than a century of development, our Party has united and led the people to start with struggle, to move forward in struggle, to achieve one great feat after another and to make one major breakthrough after another through a thousand difficulties and dangers. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we should firmly believe in struggle, and with the high spirit of "dare to call the sun and the moon to change a new sky", we will continue to overcome the difficulties and obstacles on the new journey, and continue to help to achieve new great victories.

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