

# *Exploration of Paths to the Construction of Communist Belief for Young Students*

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**Abstract**—At present, the communistic belief of young students is increasingly weakening with lots of belief confusions in the deep of their minds. This paper aims at this problem to explore its objective and subjective reasons and expound the scientific connotation of communist ideology. Through learning the original works of Marx and Engels, participating in social practice and building ideal and belief, young students can be promoted to strengthen their communistic belief, thus making them gradually build communistic belief and becoming qualified talents in the new times.

**Keywords**—*belief, communism, construction, ideal, value*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Since the reform and opening-up for four decades, we have made world-famous achievements in economic construction. However, with the emergence of foreign trend of thoughts and new things accompanied by gradual loss of orthodox status of traditional ideology and discourse hegemony and the actual situation in which new social values are yet to be formed, social anomie arises and thus leads to current crisis of belief. As Daniel Bell says, "modernistic real problem is belief. And it is a spiritual crisis in obsolete language." [1] Such belief crisis has such a deep impact on adults, especially on those young students who are inexperienced and immature. Therefore, it is of great significance for educational workers to analyze the confusion and causes of young students in new era, expound scientific connotation of communistic ideology, explore specific path to construct communistic belief and help them to cultivate ideal and belief.

## II. CONFUSION AND CAUSES OF BELIEF FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

### A. *The confusion of belief for young students*

With the rapid development of economy and deepening of higher education in our country, college students are generally highly literate. However, it is noteworthy that the ideological and political consciousness of college students does not develop in step with their scientific knowledge. In the depth of their thought, there exists multiple contradiction and confusion, particularly in belief which are reflected in the following aspect:

First, diversified value of life. Since the establishment of the system of socialist market economy, all kinds of thoughts have come to college students. Faced with choices and

judgment, the value orientation of many college students has been misplaced, which is reflected in the change from paying attention to the ideal into the reality and utility, from paying equal attention to both selfless giving and taking into taking without the willingness to giving. Meanwhile, their concept of interests is increasingly inclined to individuals. Additionally, on the one hand, college students believe that they should take certain social responsibilities and show certain sense and behavior of national masters in their growth; on the other hand, they feel that in reality, such social responsibility seems to be getting farther and farther away from them, which shows the trend of indifference to social responsibility. In particular, some students affected by money worship and hedonism regard "making money" and "promotion and being rich" as the standard of happy life and take luxury and enjoyment as the goal of pursuing value in life.

Second, emphasis on individual ideal while ignoring social ideal. There is no denying that contemporary college students have ideals. They want to be famous, get married and stand out, but some of them simply pursue their own dreams without closely linking personal ideals and social ones. They believe that social ideals are too far and too big to be realized and that the present life of the individual is the most realistic one. Therefore, they are more concerned about their own fate, their own development and current interests, thus emphasizing that people should first be responsible for themselves, their families and current life, and create an affordable, superior and rich life through their own efforts. They do not care about others, the collective and society. In addition, they lack understanding on the relationship between individual ideals and social ones, the correct awareness on their own historical mission as well as the serious attitude toward the master of the nation.

Third, ambiguous understanding on the future of socialism. There is a tendency for young students to be unclear about the nature and basic contents of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Quite a number of students have a vague understanding on some cardinal theoretical and fundamental issues and are unable to figure out what is the essential difference between Chinese characteristics and capitalism. It is more ambiguous for them to understand communism. Some students think it is "unconvincing and completely out of date", others are "unclear" about it. When it came to the view that "whether contemporary western doctrines and theories can replace Marxism as the guiding ideology to solve China's practical problems", some students answered "yes", while some said "unclear".

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### B. Analysis on the causes of young students' belief confusion

There are subjective and objective reasons for the confusion and disorientation of communist belief among young students.

From the subjective point of view, some students work very hard on their professional learning, believing that it is of little help to study Marxist theory and no use to them, so they do not pay attention to the study of Marxist theory and political theory. This greatly hinders the improvement of young students' Marxist theoretical literacy and cultivation of theoretical thinking, so that they lose the ability to distinguish and resist wrong ideas in real life.

From the objective point of view, there are three main reasons. First, there is a lack of correct spiritual concepts in society. In 20 century, China experienced new cultural movement, "cultural revolution" and other movements, which vehemently denied the traditional culture and at the same time abandoned the original humanistic care and social responsibility of the traditional intellectuals, resulting in the growing crisis of trust and belief in the society, and the breeding of egoism. For young people, without the support of scientific ideas, they will make behavioral choices by instinct in the face of the temptation of material life. Second, the negative effects caused by undesirable phenomena in the reform and opening up arise. Some contradictions and problems in the reform and opening up have a negative impact on the ideals and beliefs of young students. For example, some new situations in the development of market economy, such as the social wealth gap, corruption and the construction of ecological environment, have made some young students shake their faith in the leadership of the communist party and socialist modernization and lose their faith. Third, in terms of teaching and publicity, theory is separated from practice. The forms and methods of teaching and publicity for Marxist theory in some institutions of high learning are too rigid and lag behind the current social development situation. Among them, the most prominent problem is the phenomenon of "big" and "empty" in teaching and publicity. Theories are highly emphasized, the academic atmosphere is far from serious, formalism prevails and there is lack of pertinence and effectiveness. These conditions cause young students to have rebellious psychology, affecting their enthusiasm for learning and sense of identity.

### III. SCIENTIFIC EXPRESSION OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY

Whether it is objective reasons or subjective reasons, the root of the belief problem for young students lies in their insufficient and one-sided and superficial understanding on communism. As a matter of fact, communism has profound ideological connotation and practical significance. This is evident in the writings of the founders of Marxism. A series of Marx's classic works such as *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*, *Die Heilige Familie*, and *German Ideology* expressed communist thoughts from the perspective of philosophical ideas, which were mainly reflected in the following two aspects:

### A. Communism is a philosophical expression rooted in materialism

Materialism, as a correct world outlook, has always been combined with the progressive class to provide them with advanced ideological guidance. Materialism of 18th century casts a capitalist world in the thought, breeds and guides the French revolution. At the same time it has a very strong historical penetration, laying the foundation for overthrowing the world in the future. For in accordance with the basic spirit of materialism and the principles of practice, feudalism should be overthrown, even the capitalist society that takes its place will not always be rational and just, and it "should be thrown into the rubbish heap like feudalism and all earlier social systems. True reason and justice have not yet ruled the world." [2] A better world awaits people to strive for, which provide "logical basis" and ideological premise for socialism and communism. Marx regarded materialism as the ideological root of communism and laid a deep philosophical foundation for communism. Generally speaking, as long as we adhere to the principle of materialism and face the life rationally, it is possible to draw a practical conclusion in the issues of human nature, the environment, education and other issues. It is the extension and pursuit of these conclusions that connect materialism with communism and thus become the birthplace of communist ideals and requirements. This is the first meaning of Marx's communist thought, that is, the communist ideological trend emerges from philosophical materialism.

### B. Marx defines communism from the perspective of metaphysics

Since 19th century, there are two major shortcomings in the communist theory: one is the equalitarianism, and the other is the ignorance of the significance of production development and social progress. For this reason, Marx stated: "communism is by no means the withering, abstraction and loss of the essential power of the object world created by man, that is, the form of the object taken by man, nor go back to underdeveloped and simple state of poverty against nature." [3] This state means the weakness, decay and alienation of the essential power of the object world which is created by man. On the contrary, only communism "is the realistic generation of man's essence and the real realization of man's essence to man". [3] And, consequently, in the criticism of communist ideological at that time when the generalization of private property was changed into the active sublation of private property, the sublation of the state of poverty and backwardness into the essence of man and its power into man himself, Marx led us to the philosophic world step by step, to the actual generation of human and their essence, to the solution of the contradictions between human and nature and among human beings, thus elevating the understanding of communism into lofty philosophic realm beyond reality experience.

Although Marx's communist thought is a kind of significance, value and state of mind, it is real and practical. The abolition of private property was a necessary step for communism. Of course, it is not easy to eliminate private property, and there is a long way to go to solve various real contradictions in the possession and objectification of human

nature mediated by private property. The constitution of the 19th CPC national congress stipulates that the realization of communism is the party's highest ideal and ultimate goal. Since it is "the highest" and "the ultimate", it of course means that communism is the "supreme" and "immediate" ultimate cause. This has entered the realm of philosophy with the ultimate significance. In fact, the real possession of human nature and the "real solution" of freedom and necessity, objectification and self-confirmation have always been accompanied by many contradictions concerning human existence, which can only be done at the cost of the whole history of human beings, rather than a period or a certain stage.

#### IV. SPECIFIC PATH FOR YOUNG STUDENTS TO CONSTRUCT COMMUNIST BELIEF

It is the deep connotation of communism that causes a lot of people misunderstanding communism. Some of the young students expressed a flippant attitude even before they really understood the full scientific meaning of communist life. This is not only not conducive to the recognition of their values, but also harmful to the development of society. Therefore, educators must guide the contemporary young students to learn the original works of Marx and Engels, participate in social practice, establish ideals and beliefs, constantly construct specific ways, and gradually establish the scientific belief of communism.

First, young students should continue to learn original works of Marx and Engels. The works of the founders of Marxism are rich in scientific connotation and are the treasure of our knowledge. However, it is a pity that there are many young students who have only heard about the works of Marx and Engels, or simply browse through them. Even a considerable number of them have never read them, just reading others' comments from newspapers and magazines. This will not only be of little use to us in the learning process, but will do harm to us. It makes us unable to recognize whether the comments of others are right or wrong but only "follow others' opinions without our own independent thinking". Thus we cannot grasp the system of theories of Marx, or even will become confused. In this way, it is impossible for us to accumulate knowledge, let alone to construct scientific ideal and goal. Therefore, young students must spend a certain amount of energy and time to carefully study the original works. Only by studying the text can we really grasp communism and Marx's other scientific theory. Of course, the author does not advocate that young students should read all the works of the founder of Marxism, which is unrealistic and impossible. Instead, the author advocated that young students should carefully read some important works, such as *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*, *Die Heilige Familie*, *Outline, German Ideology and The Communist Manifesto*.

Second, it should encourage young students to participate in social practice. In 21st century, we are living in the era of

knowledge and information, which is characterized by instant changes. If we do not keep pace with the development of the times, we will soon be eliminated by the society. In addition, the scientific connotation of "communism" has always been closely related to social development and changes of the times. Therefore, young students must be actively engaged in social practice and combine the theoretical knowledge with social practice while studying and grasping the scientific connotation of "communism". In this way, we can not only keep our feet on the ground and keep up with the pace of the times, but also improve our theoretical level, deeply understand communism and its persistence and feasibility, so as to truly construct a scientific, reasonable and positive ideal goal of communism.

Third, it should cultivate young students to build ideal and belief. Ideal and belief is the spiritual pillar of life, the pursuit for a bright future and lofty goals and strive to achieve higher value of self-consciousness. It should constantly push our limits, shape and develop ourselves and oriented to the future. It has a decisive influence on people's thoughts and deeds, and is one of the most important values. To train the young students to set up the communist ideal and belief is to train them to be the qualified talents integrating the scientific spirit and humanistic spirit, technology and politics, economy and ideal and faith. They can form serious moral foundation and build correct outlook on the world, life and value by constructing such communistic ideal and belief on strict requirements of basic social conduct, thus actively engaging in promoting physical and spiritual creation led by the development of social productive and realizing their own value and significance in the pursuit of communist ideal and belief.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In the process of building ideal and belief, young students must understand and grasp the deep connotation of communism in a scientific manner, seek and build the specific paths to construct communism beliefs, combine it with social reality of their own, accumulate practical experience and improve the theoretical level, thus establishing the communist ideal and goal. Additionally, they can develop and improve themselves in the pursuit of the communist life, and contribute their own effort for socialist modernization and the development of communism of our country, which can help them to achieve their own goals and pursue their values.

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