

Logical Evolution of Marxist Thought of Urban-Rural Integration and Development

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Abstract: The logical starting point of Marxist thought of urban-rural integration and development is to criticize capitalist mode of production on the basis of a deep understanding of the opposition between urban and rural areas. Marx and Engels pointed out that modern society is equivalent to capitalist society. The capitalist mode of production has developed classical cities into modern cities. The position and function of cities have undergone fundamental changes, which has also brought about a fundamental reversal of the relationship between urban and rural areas. The relationship between urban and rural areas has moved from the same direction to separation and opposition. Marx and Engels believed that the development of urban-rural integration is the ultimate direction of the evolution of human relationship between urban and rural areas, and provided a possible path to achieve urban-rural integration. Our country's rural revitalization strategy is a vivid practice of Marxism's thought of urban-rural integration development and the latest development of Marxism's thought of urban-rural integration development.

1. The Origin of Marxist Thought of Urban-Rural Integration and Development——Critique of Capitalist Mode of Production

The relationship between urban and rural areas is a pair of basic relationships in the development of human society. Although Marx and Engels have not systematically and explicitly expounded the theory of urban-rural integration and development, the sparks of their thoughts shine in relevant works, such as *German Idea*, *Principles of Communism*, *Onanti-Dublin*, *On Housing Problems*, *Das Kapital*, etc.

Marxism's thought of urban-rural integration and development began with the cognition and criticism of capitalist urban-rural opposition. Marxism pointed out that in the early days of human society, due to the extremely low level of development of productive forces, there was no "City" because there was no division of labor and the conditions for the emergence of cities, thus there was no distinction and difference between cities and villages, and the relationship between urban and rural areas was the same. Urban and rural areas have gone through a long process of development. Engels borrowed Morgan's method of dividing the development history of human society into three periods: the age of ignorance, barbarism and civilization [1]¹⁸. The same development stage of the whole city and countryside runs through the whole history from the lower stage of the age of ignorance to the higher stage of barbarism. The separation of urban and rural areas is a turning point between the identity of urban and rural areas and the opposition between urban and rural areas. As human society began to transition from the barbaric era to the civilized era, the handicraft industry developed and the distinction between agriculture and agriculture became increasingly evident, and personal wealth gradually accumulated, providing possible capital for the further expansion and development of the handicraft industry. It is on this basis that the city and the countryside have been separated and increasingly fixed. "The division of labor within a nation first causes the separation of industrial and commercial labor and agricultural labor, which also causes the separation of urban and rural areas and the opposition between urban and rural interests" [2]⁵²⁰. Since then, the relationship between urban and rural opposites has become the normal development of urban-rural relations. "The opposition between urban and rural areas began with the transition from barbarism to civilization, from tribal system to the state, and from regional limitations to ethnic transition. It

runs through the entire history of the civilized era until now" [3]⁵⁵⁶.

Especially in modern times, the trend of separation and opposition has become more apparent, and the contradictions have become more prominent. As we all know, the rise of cities in the modern sense is created by the modernization movement based on the wave of industrial civilization and is the product of modernity. In his important work, *Economic Manuscripts 1857-1858*, Marx deeply analyzes the basic course of human social development and puts forward the scientific thesis that "an important aspect of the history of modernity is the urbanization of the countryside." Modernity is fundamentally the fundamental attribute of modern society. "In the context of Marx's historical materialism theory, modern society refers to modern capitalist society, and the understanding of modern society is inseparable from the grasp of capitalist production methods." [4]. The essence of the problem brought by the development of modernity is the problem brought by the development of capitalist mode of production, which is the dilemma of capital. On the issue of the relationship between city and village, Marx and Engels saw this point even more. From the standpoint of materialist conception of history, they made a profound and scientific analysis of capitalist mode of production by using political and economic analysis methods. They clearly explained the root of the opposition between urban and rural areas, and put forward the "integration of urban and rural areas" and the relevant paths to achieve the integration and development of urban and rural areas.

In modern society, how a country or region develops its cities often becomes an important indicator to measure the modernization degree of the country or region. Modern city is the product of modernity and the development of capitalist mode of production. Its formation and development have its historical inevitability. "The essence of urban space is an environment for capital construction, which is the result of capital control and action" [5]^{262.264}. Compared with the cities of classical society, modern cities have undergone important changes, mainly in the following two aspects: First, the status and function of cities in social life have undergone fundamental changes. Classical society is a society dominated by the natural economy. Even though social production and exchanges are expanding, they still belong to subordinate status. This means that although the role and influence of cities in social life is growing, they do not dominate. Modern society is a society in which the exchange economy replaces the natural economy to become the dominant one. Communication expands rapidly and breaks down regional restrictions. Under such circumstances, cities become the dominant spatial form of social life, especially economic life, and cities are in a dominant position in social and economic life. As a result, major changes have taken place in the city's functions. The functions and functions of modern cities are completely centered on economic functions. The formation and development of cities in classical society are more based on the needs of politics and military. The spatial layout of cities is designed according to military or political needs. Even though some cities have economic functions, the city itself It is not consciously designed around the needs of industrial development or commercial exchange, but is naturally formed in the development and interaction of social production. In modern society, the situation has undergone a fundamental change. Modern cities are more based on the needs of economic development, large-scale industrial development, transformation or purposeful and conscious construction on the basis of the original cities. "It completely eliminates the nature of natural formation (as long as it is possible to do this within the scope of labor), and it also turns all naturally formed relationships into monetary relationships. It has established a modern big industrial city—— Their appearance sprang up like bamboo shoots after a spring rain——To replace the naturally formed city. ... it makes the city finally defeat the country" [6]⁵⁶⁶, the economic goal is the primary goal of the construction and development of modern cities.

Second, the urban-rural relationship has undergone a fundamental overturn. The formation and development of modern cities implements the principles of industrial civilization, and the economic function and status of cities are becoming more and more important. The city is expanding rapidly and mechanically. Urbanization is characterized by oversize, centralization and mechanization. It has gradually become the ruling center of the world system, while villages are continuously squeezed and marginalized. "The city itself shows the concentration of population, production tools,

capital, enjoyment and demand. What you see in the country is the opposite: Isolation and dispersion "[7]⁵⁵⁶. Under the action of the industrial civilization principle of the city and the agricultural civilization principle of the village, the city and the village form a dual economic structure and cultural structure. The modern city gradually replaces the city with natural growth, and finally the city overcomes the village and the urban-rural opposition.

2. The Subject Construction of Marxist Thought on Urban-Rural Integration and Development

Marxism's thought on the integration of urban and rural development is a strict system. Marx and Engels used scientific methods of dialectical materialism and historical materialism to analyze the development of urban and rural areas under capitalist conditions. It is believed that the relationship between urban and rural areas generally goes from "identity" to "separation" or even "opposition" and finally to "integration and development", which is an objective process in accordance with the law of historical development.

2.1. The Goal and Value Orientation of the Development of Urban-Rural Relations: Communism's Urban-Rural Integration to Eliminate Opposition and Difference

The first time Marx and Engels explicitly used the concept of "urban-rural integration" was in Engels' draft program "Principles of Communism" written for the communist alliance. "... By eliminating the old division of labor, through industrial education, changing the types of work, and enjoying the benefits created by everyone, through the integration of urban and rural areas, all members of society can be fully developed—This is the main result of abolishing private ownership "[8]⁶⁸⁹. The proposal of "urban-rural integration" expresses the goal and value orientation of the realistic movement of urban-rural relations.

The existence of urban-rural antagonism is inevitable, but it also has limitations and disadvantages that cannot be ignored. First of all, the gap between urban and rural areas is widening day by day. As mentioned earlier, cities mean the concentration of various factors of production, various opportunities, various pleasures and demands, while villages mean dispersion. The more open and prosperous cities are, the more closed and decayed villages become. Secondly, it poses a threat to the long-term sustainable development of agriculture, thus shaking the status of villages as "safety factors" (words of Mumford). Finally, the most serious is the development of human deformity and one-sided development. Marx and Engels' analysis of the relationship between urban and rural areas, whether it is the same between urban and rural areas, the opposition between urban and rural areas, or the integration of urban and rural areas, "all-round development of human beings" has always been an important thread running through it. How is the relationship between urban and rural areas, and the all-round development of human beings is the ultimate goal. "The antagonism between urban and rural areas is the most distinct reaction of an individual to the division of labour and to some activity he is forced to engage in, which converts some people into restricted urban animals and others into restricted rural animals." [9]⁵⁵⁶. This kind of opposition has intensified in a certain historical stage, "and every day re-emerges the opposition between the two interests" [10]⁵⁵⁶. Behind the urban prosperity and social progress lies the stagnation and backwardness of the countryside, the excessive polarization of urban life, the excessive waste of resources and the growing separation from the natural environment on which human beings depend.

Facing the opposition between urban and rural areas, Marx and Engels put forward their insights on the integration of urban and rural areas. Marx and Engels pointed out that when the productive forces develop to a certain level, the malpractice of private ownership becomes more and more obvious, which will definitely hinder the development of productive forces. Abolishing private ownership will inevitably eliminate the exploiting classes, and then the class foundation of the urban-rural opposition will disappear, and the urban-rural opposition will be completely eliminated. "...Therefore, a society organized according to the principles of communism does not allow the class to continue. On the other hand, this social establishment itself provides a means to eliminate class differences. It can be seen that the opposition between the city and the village will also

disappear. [11]⁶⁸⁹. The practice of social and historical development shows that the urban-rural opposition has its historical inevitability, but it also has obvious drawbacks. The integration of urban and rural development is the inevitable trend and value orientation of urban-rural relations.

2.2. The Realization Conditions of Urban-Rural Integration Development

Marx and Engels believed that the relationship between urban and rural areas evolved from identity to separation and then to opposition under the joint promotion of social division of labor and productivity development. The development of urban-rural integration can only be realized under certain preconditions. "Destroying the opposition between urban and rural areas is one of the primary conditions of the community. This condition depends on many material premises, and anyone knows at a glance that this condition cannot be achieved by the will alone" [12]⁵⁵⁷.

First, the social division of labor and the development of productive forces are the internal driving force for the integration of urban and rural development. As mentioned above, Marx and Engels have always emphasized the important driving role of division of labor in the evolution of urban-rural relations. The continuous development of division of labor has promoted the development of the opposite situation between urban and rural areas, and will also promote the elimination of the opposite situation between urban and rural areas. "Each stage of division of labor also determines the relationship between individuals in terms of labor materials, labor tools and labor products" [13]⁵²¹. The development of productive forces has continuously promoted the transformation of social division of labor. With the demise of the old division of labor and the transformation of the new division of labor, the development of urban-rural relations will usher in a good environmental condition. "...When the society is fully transformed, it may be possible to eliminate the urban-rural opposition that has reached an extremely sharp degree in modern capitalist society." [14]²⁸³, urban-rural relations are moving toward integration.

Second, the public ownership of production materials is the basis for the ownership of urban and rural integration. The integration of urban-rural relations and the development of productivity are internal motivations and key factors, and whether productivity is owned by the people is also an important condition. The public ownership of means of production means the abolition of private ownership and the establishment of public ownership. "...In fact, division of labor and private ownership are equal expressions, for the same thing, one for activities and the other for products of activity" [15]⁵³⁶. Engels believed that only by abolishing private ownership can a common consortium composed of all members of society make common and planned use of productive forces, develop production to a scale that can meet the needs of all people, and end the situation of sacrificing the interests of some people to meet the needs of others. In the end, the elimination of class and class opposition will completely enable members of the community to share the benefits created by them, in order to eliminate urban-rural rivalry, achieve urban-rural integration, and enable all members of society to develop in an all-round way.

Third, the free and all-round development of people is the main condition for realizing the integration of urban and rural development. Marxist urban and rural integration development thoughts have always run through the two main lines of the evolution of urban-rural relations and human development [16], Marx and Engels believed that capitalism had brought about significant changes in the relationship between urban and rural areas. The relationship between urban and rural areas moved from the same direction to separation until opposition. The capitalist mode of production did not eliminate this opposition, but increased the opposition, making the contradiction between urban and rural areas more acute and people become restricted animals. It was also in this process that the capitalist mode of production prepared for a complete change in the relationship between urban and rural areas. The intensification of the relationship between urban and rural areas foreshadowed the arrival of the development of urban-rural integration. Later, Marx and Engels demonstrated that the post-capitalist society, that is, the Communist society, tended to integrate urban-rural relations. At that time, people could choose urban or rural life according to their interests and hobbies, freely choose their own jobs, and people would no longer submit to the division of labor in cities or villages, and labor would no longer be allowed. It's the existence of

"different people", and everyone gets free and comprehensive development. The free and all-round development of human beings is not only the value goal of the future communist society, but also the main condition to promote the future communist society, and the main condition to realize the integration of urban and rural development.

3. New Development of Marxist Thought of Urban-Rural Integration and Development

The integration of urban and rural development is an advanced stage in the development of urban-rural relations and is a development that conforms to the law; the integration of urban and rural development provides the realistic conditions for the free and comprehensive development of human beings, and is in line with the development of human nature. Although Marxist urban-rural integration development is not the focus of Marx and Engels's theory construction, or even its conscious and conscious attention, it does not affect its scientific and important significance. However, after Marx and Engels, cities have increasingly become the darling of capital and achieved rapid development (urban-rural antagonism is also more obvious). Under such circumstances, western urban scholars or western neo-Marxists pay less attention to villages, and almost all research has been directed to cities. As two outstanding representatives of western neo-Marxist space theory, Henri Lefebvre of France and David Harvey of the United States all regard cities as the leading space for capital space production, and the relationship between rural and urban areas hardly falls within their scope of attention.

The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy and the promotion of urban-rural integration have become the top priority of China's urban and rural construction. After the 19th National Congress, the academic community conducted a series of studies on the rural revitalization strategy and formed some results. However, most scholars study from the reasons and background of the rural revitalization strategy, the necessity of implementing the rural revitalization strategy, and how to promote the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. However, it is less significant to explore the theoretical origin and significance of the rural revitalization strategy from the perspective of the logical evolution of Marxist urban-rural integration development thought. Strengthening the research on the logical evolution of Marxist urban-rural integration development will help to improve the level of theoretical research. On the other hand, it will also help to reveal and understand the problems existing in the development of urban-rural relations in China, and to promote the urban-rural relationship and promote urban and rural Integrated construction provides theoretical guidance.

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