

# **New Thoughts on the Research of Chinese Ethnic Theory and Policy in the New Era**

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**Abstract:** The report of the 19th CPC National Congress put forward the self-confidence in the ethnic theory and system of the CPC. Always maintaining our confidence in the theory and system also means maintaining the confidence in the research of Chinese ethnic theory and policy in the new era. As for relevant scholars, it would be better to conduct research based on the actual national conditions, on the achievements of the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and on the experience of solving ethnic issues. In addition, it is necessary to treat the research of ethnic theory and policy scientifically from the perspective of development, always adhere to the goal of national unity and harmony, and do a good job in relevant research.

## **1. Elaboration on Chinese Ethnic Theory and Policy**

The so-called Chinese ethnic theory means that guided by the Marxist ethnic theory, upholding the leadership of the CPC, safeguarding the national unity, achieving the common development of all ethnic groups, and using Marxist ethnic theory to solve ethnic issues for continuous improvement, so as to realize the Marxist ethnic theory with Chinese characteristics, and to prove that the Chinese ethnic theory can stand the test of practice.

The Chinese ethnic policy refers to the achievements obtained in the process of continuously exploring and trying to solve issues of various ethnic groups in China, based on the CPC's ethnic theory, combined with China's actual national conditions, and constantly drawing on the excellent experiences of other countries in practice.

According to years of practical experience, Chinese ethnic theory and policy are fully in line with current national situation, and a new type of ethnic relationship has been formed to achieve equality, unity, mutual assistance and harmony among all ethnic groups. Plus, the system of regional ethnic autonomy has become our fundamental system. Through continuous development of ethnic policies and respect for minority cultures, the prosperity of ethnic minorities has been achieved. Moreover, through the joint efforts of all ethnic groups, the practice and achievements of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation have been realized, showing that the Chinese ethnic theory and policy are scientific and rational, and can stand the test of practice.

## **2. Research of Chinese Ethnic Theory and Policy in the New Era**

China is the first country in the world to make research on ethnic theory and policy on the basis of Marxism and study it with traditional qualitative. The research method of the 1980s was based on a single traditional paradigm, which was mainly determined by the national conditions at that time. With the development of China's social economy and the improvement of comprehensive national strength, more disciplines have started to study ethnic studies. As a result, the research paradigm has changed, including the research perspective and quantitative research. Quantitative research has been mainly adopted, and the traditional paradigm has been questioned in the process of humanities and social sciences research.

The traditional paradigm, as a dominant method, has been used in the research on Chinese ethnic theory and policy for a long time. With the development of anthropology, sociology and ethnology, the traditional paradigm has gradually been marginalized, causing scholars who adopt the traditional paradigm research methods enormous challenges. These scholars seriously lack the attitude of

historical materialism, failing to look at the problem from the perspective of dialectical development or take into account the actual national situation. According to the research methods and paths of ethnic theory for many years, it is mainly determined by the political background and the background of the times, resulting in no study or infiltration into other disciplines. Traditional paradigm research was based on the actual situation at that time, which made tremendous contributions in practice and played an irreplaceable value in maintaining national unity in China.

Therefore, the traditional paradigm belongs to the product of the development of the times, which should be treated dialectically and inherited and developed effectively. Even if a new paradigm is developed, the traditional paradigm has its irreplaceable value. Researches in recent years have found that American ethnic studies have a certain impact on our ethnic theory and policy research. Many students advocate the use of American research. However, due to different national conditions and different ethnic relations, advocating direct use will seriously affect the development of our academic circles. Apart from the lack of realistic research attitude, there are too many students too obsessed with the results of research paradigm of other countries. He is fascinated by the results of research paradigms in other countries. Such research mode, separated from reality and field background, will seriously affect the research and development of localization.

The innovation of research paradigm must not only be based on thoughts, but also on research methods. The expansion of research materials and information is not only from current research literature and results, but also from the perspective and influence other than ethnic groups. Ethnic issues mainly solve address economic, cultural, and social fields, so more disciplines need to be studied. The research of Chinese ethnic theory and policy in the new era cannot only focus on the study of ethnology, but also on the study of various research methods and more theoretical paradigms.

### **3. The Theory of Research Comes from Innovation**

In terms of the research of Chinese ethnic theory and policy, some people believe that the research advantages of our country follow the model of the former Soviet Union. The main reason for the disintegration of the former Soviet Union was because of its ethnic theory and policy. Therefore, some people reckon that there must be certain problems in the research of Chinese ethnic theory, and some people even criticize our ethnic theory and policy, criticizing the strong ideological characteristics of China's research and paying too much attention to political issues; some people propose that the system of regional national autonomy should be abolished and the practice of western countries should be promoted. All of the above-mentioned practices have seriously affected the Chinese people's ideological views, so President Xi Jinping responded in the report of the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress and clarified again in the report of the 19<sup>th</sup> National Congress that the misunderstanding of the Party's ethnic theory and policy, and the commitment to the theory of Sinicization of Marxism. Those who think that China follows the practice of the former Soviet Union have no respect for China's actual national conditions and history. The theoretical source of China's ethnic theory and policy research is the Marxist ethnic theory. Moreover, it is the inheritance and development of the Marxist ethnic theory, entirely determined by the actual national situation in China and the ethnic theory in China.

### **4. Research Requires a Broader Academic Horizon and Logical Thinking**

At the moment, there is no discipline classification for Chinese ethnic theory and policy research, and it has become a topic of constant concern in society. Although the first-level disciplines of Ethnology include Marxist ethnic theories and policy major, Chinese research scholars are those who are engaged in the related majors of Marxist principles, ideological politics, political science, ethnology and sociology. The researches in recent years show that there is a serious lack of logical thinking. Opinions often fail to withstand the demonstration of practice. At the same time, there are limitations in researchers' respective disciplines, with serious lack of rigor in their views.

From a broad perspective, the research of ethnic theory and policy does not require certain

discipline knowledge; rather, it requires the study in sociology. Ethnic groups are the community of people, so more attention must be paid to the special attributes of human groups in the process of research. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct research from a social perspective and study the social attributes of the nation, including social structure, social order and social stratification. At the same time, it is necessary to combine the study with psychological research; especially ethnic relations must be studied from the perspective of psychology. Discrimination and prejudice are bound to exist in the study of ethnic relations both at home and abroad. When studying ethnic relations, it will certainly undergo an individual-to-group transformation, which will inevitably translate into ethnic relations. Thus, when studying ethnic relations, we must study it from the perspective of psychology to analyze ethnic relations and characteristics. As China is a multi-ethnic country, when studying how to strengthen national unity, we must study it from the national emotional level, and more importantly from the human itself. Only in this way can the research be meaningful and valuable.

## **5. Suggestions on Scholars' Theory in Research**

### **5.1 Research scholars must have correct value orientation**

When studying Chinese ethnic theory and policy, can we have empathy and compassion, can we conduct research from the perspective of justice, fair and equality? For example, when studying ethnic relations, can we actively safeguard national unity when doing research work and inter-ethnic communication; when studying Chinese and foreign ethnic issues, can we use historical materialism to conduct research, can we stand on the position and principle of the state to conduct research, can we carry out research for the future development of the country? In fact, I think that everyone has practice right and discourse right, but we should distinguish the above two effectively and find out the relationship between them. Some scholars, however, blindly worship the research concepts of Western countries, while question our ethnic theory and policy research, and construct what they think of as ethnic theory, which cannot stand the test of practice at all. Therefore, we must learn to draw from the research process rather than blindly follow. Meanwhile, it is necessary to consider whether the theory and policy will have a certain impact on society.

### **5.2 Scholars can't pursue their personal interests at the expense of national interests**

Scholars should have the academic responsibility and attitude with no interest in fame or wealth because the results of scholars' research will have a certain impact on social and national unity. When scholars put forward new concepts, they must demonstrate them and combine them with the current actual national conditions as well as the Party's development. If any concept is not proposed in line with the actual national conditions, it remains at the level of cognition, which can't stand the test of practice, nor can it be better transformed into useful academic research for reference. As the saying goes, "there is no diamond, do not get porcelain living." ... Don't act as a warrior for your own vanity. Therefore, scholars of ethnic theory and policy research must insist on seeking truth from facts, stand in the perspective of the entire nation, and take responsibility for their own research results.

### **5.3 Focus on research perspective and knowledge horizon**

In the course of research, it is inevitable to encounter problems of minority thinking. Once this happens, we must avoid it. As a qualified researcher, we all believe that we are a part of the Chinese nation and we are united as one. At the same time, we must pay attention to the language and prevent discourse patterns such as "other ethnic group". Especially when publishing some articles, there must be no sensitive words such as "other minorities" and "our nation", otherwise it will not only be detrimental to the unity, harmony and development among the ethnic groups, but also bring a fixed way of thinking to the ethnic minorities. Furthermore, sensitive words will label them as "vulnerable minorities", which will seriously affect the national unity of our country. In addition, researchers must have a broad knowledge and excellent language organization ability to prevent errors in the basic language. For example, in the study of ethnic theory and policy, when it comes to religious and ethnic issues, basic religious knowledge and basic ethnic knowledge, including relevant legal

knowledge are all a must. If sensitive issues are involved, it'd be better to consult relevant scholars and ask advice from the jurists. There must be no discourse that violates judicial practice or policy. Plus, during the study of ethnic theory and policy, it is necessary to understand some of the world's knowledge and consensus to avoid situations that are stretched.

## 6. Summary

As China is a multi-ethnic country, all ethnic groups should unite as one, communicate with each other. It is the task entrusted by the state and the times to strive for common prosperity and development. It is also the purpose of scholars engaged in the research of Chinese ethnic theory and policy. Therefore, in the course of their research, scholars must seek truth from facts and have correct value orientation in the light of China's actual national conditions. Standing on the interests of the nation, scholars will make a huge contribution to China's prosperity by constantly expanding their knowledge horizons and research perspectives.

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