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An Account and Statement of Marx's Ecological Economic Theory

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Abstract: The ecological problems that human faces have been serious and acute, which has been generally recognized by the international community, and has become a critical global issue and the focus of many international conferences. Marxist thinks of the relationship of human, society and nature as a complex whole organic unity; and thinks that the ecological crisis in the capitalist system is the main social causes, only in a socialist society, all human activities can be reasonably regulated with the human's nature and the natural world's law. Marx's ecological economic theory should be one of the most important theoretical basis to solve the increasingly serious ecological problems, and to promote the harmonious development of human and nature.

Key words: Ecological problems, Marx's ecological economic theory, The harmonious development of human and nature, Theoretical basis

The ecological problems that human faces (such as Environmental pollution, Abnormal weather, depletion of natural resources, species extinction, damage to vegetation, populational expansion, etc.) have been serious and acute, which has been generally recognized by the international community and has become a critical global issue and the focus of attention of major international conferences. The increasingly serious ecological problems not only make the relationship between human and nature disharmonious but also make the relationship between people disharmonious. Conflicts because of environmental pollution increase sharply in recent years. All above cause people's environmental awareness and have forced the government and people to pay more attention to ecological protection.

In recent years, "sustainable development", "Environmental Protection" and "ecological balance" and "harmony between man and nature" and "ecological civilization" and other concepts have become the most popular topic in our lives. Especially in the CPC 17th National Congress ecological civilization has been set the same height with material civilization, political civilization and spiritual civilization. As a senior human civilization form, ecological civilization is the newest form of the relationship between human and nature, is the restructuring and sublimation of human civilization under the conditions of globalization and informationization. Human itself is one of the elements of the nature's constituent elements, as China's president Hu Jintao said, "Nature is the cradle of all living things including human beings, and is the basic conditions of mankind's survival and

development." In such a background of the times, studying Marx's ecological and economic theories, has important theoretical and practical significance.

Part.I An overview on the Research of foreign EcoMarxism

During the 1970s the rise of Eco-Marxism is the result of the times. In the 1960s-1970s, with the rise of modern ecology and modern industrial society causing ecological damage to the environment, the Western Marxist started turning to modern ecology. They criticized and exposed the inherent contradictions of capitalism and thought that capitalism would solve the ecological crisis in the programme pinning hopes on the modern ecology. They tried to combine Marxism and modern ecology, and then created the Eco-Marxist Doctrine. Eco-Marxist has a social and historical background, is the Marxist latest stage of development in western capitalist countries and is a modern performance of the new development of Marxism.

Ecological Marxism is the product of combining Marxism and modern ecology, is a theory of transition in the development of human civilization from the industrial civilization to the ecological civilization of the modern civilized form . It is a major contemporary foreign Marxism genre, or the most influential genre. To a certain extent, it is on behalf of the contemporary Marxist development direction, and reflect the new Marxist theory calls at modern civilization's transition stage. Foreign Marxism scholars' recognizing of the relationship between Marxism and ecology, has experienced Ecological Marxism(EcoMarxism), Ecological Socialism(Ecosocialism) and Marx's Ecology of the three stages .

Part.II Interpreting Marx's ecology and the ecological economic thinking from Marx's theory's integrate

As we all know, in Marx and Engels' era ecological problems is not conspicuous as today, and because of the special historical practice , Marx and Engels were impossible to research the ecological problems in a special system. However, the ecological view fragmented in Marx's economics and sociology, political philosophy theories were forward-looking, to a large extent beyond the era's limitations. We re-read the writings of Marx and Engels, can still find the light of ecological and economic thinking.

Marx's theory's concern of the ecological environment is consistent. In the Marx's philosophy of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, Marx not only concerned people's harmonious relationship in human society, but also greatly concerned the

harmonious relationship between man and nature. In the work of "Economics and Philosophy in 1844 manuscript", Marx pointed out: "society is a completed consitutive unity of human and the natural world, is the real revival of the natural world, the human's shown natrualism and the the nature's implemented humanitarian. " Moreover, Marx regarded the future of communist society as " the real solution of the contradictions between human and nature ".¹ Marx's ecological economic theory, is the founder of Marxism——Marx and Engels' ecological economic perspectives, ideas, theories. Marx and Engels' ecology theory and the ecological economic theory is a unified organic whole system.

Part.III Marx's ecological economic thinking's theoretical base

1. Marx's ecological economic thinking's Philosophical basis

In the history of scientific development, Marx firstly made a comprehensive study and overall thinking about the relationship between nature , human and the society, and profound philosophical questions into the economic, social and historical facts of experience in the final analysis, created a dialectical , Practice and historical materialism unified theory of man and nature, thus laying a Marx'st ecological and economic thinking of the philosophical foundation.

Firstly, "the priority of the natural world," a unified thinking of philosophy and economics. Secondly, the dialectical relationship between man and nature, the unity of brilliant thinking of economics and philosophy.

2. Marx's ecological economic thinking's sociological basis

¹ The Complete Works of Marx and Engels" vol 42, 1979 edition People's Publishing House, P.120.

Here the word "sociological", refers to Marx's theory of social history, especially the social practice of Marxism and social relations theory, but also refers to the Marxist theory of scientific socialism.

Firstly, Natural and social integrity of the unity of Economics and Sociology. Secondly, the evolution of Economic and social patterns, the evolution of human civilization and the united thinking of them. Thirdly, the ecological and economic implication in Communist doctrine.

3. Marx's ecological economic thinking's economic basis

Marx's dialectic, practical, historical materialism of the natural ecological environment theory, lies within the social, human and the natural form of economic and social organisms, constitute an inherent element of economic development, ecological and economic and social become a natural organic Overall. Marx's theory of economics ecological economy based primarily in the following areas.

Firstly, Ecological economic relations's fundamental opposition in Capitalism Society. Secondly, the relationship between man and nature (productivity) and interpersonal relations (relations of production) organic unity of the ecological and economic thinking. Thirdly, Labor and labor process theory is Marx's Ecological Economics thinking's theoretical foundation. Fourthly, the ecological and economic principles in the production processes theory and social production theory. Fifthly, Labor productivity is the unity of natural productivity and social productivity.

4. Marx's ecological economic thinking's ecological basis

Marx and Engels on their own vision and great enthusiasm, carefully inspected the many natural phenomena and social phenomena, visual description of the time people's economic and social activities caused by forest, destruction of land resources, environmental pollution and deterioration of urban life, Workers survive ecological problems such as environmental degradation, brilliantly put forward a number of insights on ecology, Xingsan in their works, and their theories of philosophy and economics in particular, the theory of organic combination together to form the Marxist ecological Philosophy and theory of economic and ecological thinking of the essence.

Firstly, from the ecological point expose the capitalist mode of production of antagonistic contradictions. Secondly, Marx's harmonious theory between man and nature has ecological civilization meaning.

Part.IV The great significance of establishment of Marx's ecological economic theory

1. Help to provide new guiding ideology for ecology and economy's coordinated and

sustainable development.

2. Help to fully understand and grasp the Marxist doctrine, and in the new historical period to better uphold and develop the Marxist theory and the theory of Marxism.

3. Help to better respond to the parties from the face of Marxist economics and the natural view of the accused.

4. Help to construct Marx's ecological economics, showing Chinese Marxists' contemporary style.