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Liu Shuyue(1966-), male, research fellow-professor of Deng Xiaoping Theory Research Center in Hebei Academy of Social Sciences,Discuss on Environment-friendly, written by him, will be published by Hebei People's Publishing House recently. This article is a part body of exordium in the book.

The Method of Marxists Studying Environmental Problem

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Environmental problem (spelled EP hereinafter) is the problem of relationship between man and nature. It is not only a big task for Marxism fundamental research, but also an important problem in reality for building a well-off society and harmonious socialist society. So the Marxists are urgently needed to study the problem totally and deeply in terms of history, reality, theory and practices. And the method of studying will decide the results.

1. The meaning of EP and the characteristic of the present world EP

Environment is all kinds of natural conditions of human society. It is the base of human survival and development. This is called “universal environment” containing the universal factors.

EP is the problem caused by natural force or manpower, having an influence on human survival and development. In this article EP mainly means the damages caused by human activities, taking account of interaction between man and nature.

Judging from the origin, EP can be classified as two types: first problem caused by natural force such as: earthquakes, volcano, hurricane, tsunami, flood and drought and so on; secondary problem caused by human activities. It also can be classified into environmental pollution and ecological damage. With the development of science and technology, the present EP mainly has five characteristics as follow^[1]:

1) The globalization of EP. Different from before, the present situation is based on the whole world, such as damage of ozonosphere, acid rain and so on. Although pollution happens in local area, they can widely spread to other districts, countries or continents by the flow of river and air. So the countries all around the world must be united together to solve the global EP.

2) Totalization of EP. Different from oneness as before, the present pollution has many-sided effects. In the same place, many will happen at the same time, such as reduction of forest, retrogression of grassland, desertification of land, salinization of soil, stony desertification, water and soil erosion, extinguish of species and even the often-happened acid rain. So, comprehensive treatment is the better choice for us.

3) Socializations of solving present EP. Different from before, the present EP has connections with many aspects, such as cities, villages, production, living, reality, future, society, family, furthermore, EP has infiltrate into economy, politics, science, education, culture, law and so on. EP has become a problem of the whole society.

4) Solve the high-intellectualized EP. The usage of hi-tech causes severer EP, such as the usage of nuclear power, nuclear weapon, process of hi-tech products produced and electromagnetic radiation. So people must use high-intellectualized “hard ware” and “software” to deal with it comprehensively.

5) Politicization of present EP. Formerly, EP was just a problem of industry, economy and science, later, it became a social problem. Social problem must be political problem. Today, some developed countries shift the pollution to developing country, which causes the international political struggle. Even in the same country or region, EP also will possibly transform as the political issue. EP has become a political problem domestically and internationally.

2. Basic method of studying EP—Historical Materialism

Studying EP should mainly apply Marxist historical materialism method. As a very important part of the Marxist philosophy, the historical materialism of course is both weltanschauung and methodology, and no doubt about that. Being a comprehensive method, the historical materialism method are the method of not only theoretical study and evaluation but also social practice, and the method of not only scientific prediction but also theory building. In the process of studying environment-friendly, the historical materialism was served as scientific system info, as well as a research method, made every effort to explain things according to their true colors, thus revealed their essence.

Specifically, why do we propose studying EP by the historical materialism?

First, Marxist philosophy believes that the essence of EP is the relationship between man and environment, namely, man and nature. Being the contradictory two aspects, man and environment is dialectical unity, both opposing and unifying, not only interacting but also promoting each other. Focusing on the harmony between man and nature is necessary to solve contradictory and realize unification. In nature man occupies the central position and is the master of changing and using nature, but man cannot be able to control the nature because man can only know and use the natural law in reality to serve ourselves, instead of changing the natural law. In addition, the development of human society and the person oneself must follow the social rule. Therefore, the essence of solving EP is realizing the harmony between man and nature.

Second, the Marxist classical writers have stayed behind to us many great books, represented by *Capital* and *Natural Dialectics*. In order to realize the Marxism about man and nature advancing with the times and further understand the relationship in different perspectives, especially theory and practice, past and present, it is very necessary to further study the major EP man is confronted with under the Marxist directions, to reply the Marxist question systematically about EP in the contemporary era, to study the connotation,

the significance of environment-friendly and the dialectical unity between environment and the other social factors. This has very important signification not only to theory building but also to consciousness-raising, harmony between man and nature and building a harmonious socialist society.

Third, the historical materialism has an important direction in analyzing and studying EP. On one hand, providing the method to observe and study EP, the historical materialism has the possibility to help us to find the essence and law through the superficial phenomena of the intricate EP, thus to reverse the tendency of environmental deterioration and solved the environment problem fundamentally. On the other hand, the basic principle of the historical materialism can provide us a train of correct thought for analyzing and solving EP. For example, the basic principle about the interrelation between social being and social consciousness may help us to correctly understand the importance of environment, a social being, to the survival and development of human being society; the basic principle of "Two Inevitability", downfall of capitalism and victory of socialism, can help us to profoundly understand the system root of EP; the thought of "Two Impossibility"^[2] is helpful to us to know that the contemporary capitalist countries may improve local environment through self-adjustment in some countries; the principle about masses being the creator of the history is important to awaken the populace and improve the public's environmental awareness which is a significant step to solve EP; and the principle about the unity of view of nature and view of history is significant to correctly understand person's position in nature and relationship between man and nature. Although Marx and Engels did not put forward the concept of sustainable development, their historical materialism contains an abundance of ideas about sustainable development and provides method to solve EP^[3]. Obviously, Marxist historical materialism is to solve the problem of the relationship between man and nature, including human relationships, and is important to analyze and study EP.

Fourth, the historical materialism should have studied and given directions to EP, especially the role of environment in social development, but in reality, it is omitted. For example, the historical materialism, in the past, scarcely involved the causal research between environment and consumption. Actually, determined by production, consumption is a significant step in process of social reproduction and determines production in turn. If there have many problems in consumption, the entire social reproduction cannot carry on smoothly. Therefore, pattern of consumption has an important status in the historical materialism and should be an important part of social being, including geographical environment, population and method of production. In addition, in the past, the historical materialism scarcely studies the relationship between EP and productive forces, production relations, and the influence of EP on kinds of social ideologies such as ethics, literature and arts, religion and so on.

3. The other indispensable methods of researching EP

Apart from the macro method——Historical philosophy of materialism, the following methods should be used for researching EP:

1) The attitude of realistic, pragmatic spirits and respecting science.

Firstly, no exaggerating and avoiding EP, no talking nonsense for environmental protection, we should treat EP with the scientific attitude. Believe in the science and respect science, especially on the relationships between person and the environment. This behaviors must be flatly forbid such as deviating from science to protect environment and creating air of tension, even publicizing that human being will be destroyed after 80 years due to mishandle the problem of carbon dioxide. Next we must believe in that environment will be changed more beautiful and our standard of living will be raised rapidly after human finally solving the problem between resources environment and the sustainable development depending on the science. But recently, we are already neither optimistic nor pessimistic to the relationships between person and the environment. The following representative three viewpoints opposite to daily on global climatic change are found.

First, the earth temperature change is mainly affected by the sun, not human activity. The extent of earth temperature change is decided by solar activity degree, and the earth climatic change has a period. Now the earth is neither the hottest nor the coldest. For example, the scientists from Russia Academy of Sciences expressed people showed close attention to climatic change by human activity not by solar activity^[4]. The sunlight luminance's 11-year period and century periodical fluctuation affect the climatic change of the whole world. Along with solar activity turning into the wane now days, nuclear fusion reaction in the sun will weaken bit by bit, and then solar radiation will weaken as a result. The earth temperature is likely to descend little by little from 2012, namely, after six year. They said that earth climate will turn into the cold time in this century intermediate stage, and will start global warming cycle from 22 century initial period according to their research results. Earth climatic change between warm and cold is completely consistent with the solar activity.

Mr. Zhu Kezhen, a Chinese renowned climatologist, has already pointed out the periodicity of earth climatic change^[5]: Chinese climatic change passed through four warm times and four cold times in the passed 5000 years. Before 12 centuries three warm times all appeared: most time the annual mean temperature was 2°C and the temperature in January was warmer 3-5°C than today in the first warm time from Yangshao Culture period to Shang Dynasties about 2000 years; The second warm times began from B.C. 770, continued 800 years or so; Passing through Sui-Tang dynasty, Five Dynasties and Song Dynasty, the third warm times continued about 400 years From A.D. 600 to1000.

Second, the advantage and disadvantage to China in course of global warming. In the Chinese history, the nation was unification and powerful when climate was warm and wet, on the contrary, nation apart when cold and dry^[6]. The US meteorologist estimated that temperature drop per 1°C in agricultural area can reduce a week (7 days) production season, namely, resulting in the corn increasing \$ 21,000,000 in the global most areas and cotton losing approximately \$ 2,200,000,000, paddy rice losing 956,000,000 US dollars in 65% areas^[7]. According to the calculation, the annual mean temperature rising 1°C can result in the crops vegetal period adding 15~20 days, the rainfall increasing 50~150 millimeters. The annual mean temperature rising 2°C means that the climatic conditions of Yellow River valley is similar to the present Changjiang River valley. The Tang Dynasty's prosperous was under the background of warm moist conditions. Per-capita arable land reducing day by day in China these days, global warming, although brings some problem to littoral, possibly will bring Chinese agriculture to reach a big stair based on double cropping in Northeast China, Shanxi province and Hebei province.

Third, smoke and carbon dioxide whether or not lead to global warming. The popular viewpoint at present is that greenhouse effect formed by smoke and carbon dioxide dust in air can lead to global warming and sea level rise, thus human being suffers disaster. But Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics experiments indicate that greenhouse gas and atmospheric pollutant can obstruct sunlight contacting the earth's surface to weaken energy of sunlight, and the earth surface cools down because of being short of the sunlight irradiation. This is the general explanation of global cooling^[8]. In fact, many articles published by medium and academia more than a decade ago pointed out if nuclear war happened between the United States and the Soviet Union, the smoke would thickly covered the whole world once A-bomb of the both countries detonated. Human being would enter nuclear winter because the sunlight was turned back by increasing smoke and carbon dioxide in atmosphere. This is the famous theory of nuclear winter. In addition, when explaining why the dinosaurs died out, a popular viewpoint is the dinosaurs died of being short of sunlight because the sunlight was turned back by a great deal of dust and smoke in the air aroused by the asteroid colliding with the earth. The dinosaur was impossible to find enough food with the earth temperature coming down and Jack Frost everywhere. Summing up the above, the public including me do not know both of parties in contrariety which is right, the smoke and carbon dioxide leading to whether global warming or global cooling.

Liu Dongsheng, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said, "so many people care for global warming or global cooling in the future. In as much early men had once experienced a so big climates change process such as the glacial and interglacial stage and the gigantic environment change in the process of 120 thousand years, it is affirmatively no problem to human being to experience future climate change and retain the

sustainable development of economy and society based on today's advanced science and technology. Now we are not sure whether we live in a new glacial period or an interglacial period." What we need to know is far more than we knew because of the complexity of the earth system, he also said. In fact, many scientists of USA also said that today it is not enough to prove the global warming^[9]. So experts and scholars should be prudent and readers look at climate change at all points!

Preventing the earth from becoming dirtier should be the purpose of environmental protection to my way of thinking because global warming or cooling is not sure, and at the same time the earth becoming dirtier is sure enough, and furthermore, the danger of the earth becoming dirtier is sure enough too. We believe that no one hopes a dreadful society coming forth in the future, in which people carry about canned clean air as necessities of life and give others as presents, just like today drinking bottled mineral water instead of the wayside water in the past! It can be seen that global warming is only a small part of EP. So we need to give our best efforts to protect our environment, even if global warming does not happen.

2) Insist on the investigation to history in accord with logic analysis.

The logical thing is a mirror of the history, so the logical thing should be in accord with the history. Changing with the march of time, all things in our social life have the character of history, which are the unity of historical inevitability and temporality. The origin of the historical character of things is the interaction between internal contradictions of things and the environment of things. Taking place at any time, the fluctuation and interaction of these internal conditions and external conditions is a nonlinear nonreversible process, affected by multiple factors, characterized by the historicity of things. Engels pointed out, "the logical method of approach was therefore the only suitable one. This, however, is indeed nothing but the historical method, only stripped of the historical form and diverting chance occurrences. The point where this history begins must also be the starting point of the train of thought, and its further progress will be simply the reflection, in abstract and theoretically consistent form, of the historical course. Though the reflection is corrected, it is corrected in accordance with laws provided by the actual historical course, since each factor can be examined at the stage of development where it reaches its full maturity, its classical form"^[10]. The emergence, development and evolution of EP are a process which closely relates to the mode of production and level of productive forces at a certain stage of social development. Marx said that environmental change is in accord with the human activities or self-change, which can only be looked upon as the practice of the revolution^[11].

3) Insist on the method of benefit analysis.

As a thought way, benefit analysis is to probe into the internal agent and deep origin of all sorts of social phenomena based on loaves and fishes. Marx said that all the people strive for is always related to their interests^[12]. Class interests and national interests caused unreasonable international political and economic order and unreasonable international

environmental order. The essence of global sustainable development is the problem of profit regulation. The voices about survival crises and disasters caused by so and so thing often came from occident, where environmental protection affairs and technology is advanced and people often travel to island nation, instead of frozen injury in winter and religious influence. Don't take to heart every thing you hear! It is a warm winter what the little match girl desired. This requires us when we study the environment problem, especially the international environment problem, we should look at the essence through the phenomena and insist on the method of benefit analysis, instead of parrot what other says.

4) The method of interdisciplinary and integrated research.

With continuous development of the environmental science and the environmental protection affairs, environmental protection has permeated to related sciences, already expanding to social sciences from natural science, and then to the philosophy, even having the tendency of being a comprehensiveness subject. Scholars from different areas of study are studying and discussing the essence of EP based on their respective points of view. At present, when studying EP, because of relating to different subjects such as philosophy, sociology, economics, ecology, political science, science of law and so on, the achievement of different subjects must be absorbed from many visual angles and dimensions, from a few to generality, from analysis to synthesis, and to achieve the universal philosophical generalization.

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