

Another Alternative to Democratic Socialism

Liqin Zhang

Shahe Higher Education Park, Changping District, Beijing

2218976910@qq.com

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Abstract: The development of democratic socialism has been favored in the practice of Northern Europe. In recent years, in response to the problems in China's development, it has been proposed that “only democratic socialism can save China.” For a time, the study of whether democratic socialism and scientific socialism, democratic socialism and socialism with Chinese characteristics, and democratic socialism are suitable for China and other countries on the road to democratic socialism and socialism with Chinese characteristics has become a hot spot. Through the review of academic research, we can get the following enlightenment: the study of democratic socialism is related to the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics; democratic socialism is only a specific temporary relative coordination state, not suitable for China's development; The socialist road realizes the benign interaction between “four self-confidences” and economic and social development.

After continuous development, democratic socialism has formed a relatively complete ideological system, and in practice has formed a model that is generally considered successful. Since the 1990s, the international socialist movement has entered a low ebb, but African democratic socialism has flourished.^[1]At present, there are 43 political parties in African countries with democratic socialism as their guiding ideology, covering 37 countries in Africa and becoming an important force on the political stage of African and international political parties.^[2]The number of members of democratic socialism in the United States has rapidly increased from less than 7,000 in 2016 to 46,000 in 2018.^[3] According to relevant surveys, from the perspective of the evolution of awareness and approval, the awareness of democratic socialism among college students in China has decreased significantly in recent years. In 2009, the awareness of democratic socialism among college students was 33.4%, and in 2015, the awareness was 20.4%, down 13.0%. However, college students' recognition of democratic socialism has improved significantly. In 2009, college students' recognition of democratic socialism was 15.7%, and in 2015, it was 30.9%, an increase of 15.2%. And the college students' approval of the representative view of democratic socialism remains at a high level of 40.9%.^[4]Democratic socialism has become the social trend of thought that has the greatest influence on college students and even the social development of China. In the theoretical circle, some scholars put forward the view that “only democratic socialism can save China”. As a result, a wide range of research on democratic socialism has been triggered by the academic community. This paper analyzes the related research hotspots and puts forward their own thinking.

^[1]Xu sujiang. Exploration of ideas and practices of African democratic socialist parties [J]. Contemporary world, 2019(06).

^[2]“Full list of member parties and organizations”, <https://www.socialistinternational.org/about-us/members>.

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Democratic socialism and its in China

Social thoughts are a demand for social change. The study of democratic socialism and the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is not only affected by the development of democratic socialism, but also the inherent requirement of China's own reform and development.

The Development of Democratic Socialism. Democratic socialism and scientific socialism, the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party came from one source and then diverted. In the 1870s and the mid-1990s, Marxism spread more widely in the workers' movement than in the past. During this period, the working-class parties were known as the Social-Democratic Party and pursued scientific socialism. In 1895, after the death of Engels, the Social Democratic Party split into two groups. The leftists insisted on a violent revolution, and the rightists turned to adopt an improved line. After the victory of the October Revolution, Lenin gathered the leftist forces to withdraw from the Social Democratic Party, established the Communist Party, and then established the Third International. In 1923, the Right and the Centralists joined forces to become the Socialist Workers' International. So far, the confrontation between the two political parties was formed. The socialist workers international condemned the high degree of centralization of the Soviet government, attached great importance to “democracy” and proposed to follow the path of “democratic socialism.”

The Formation System of Democratic Socialism. In 1951, the Social Democratic Party put forward the programmatic proposition of political democracy, economic democracy, social democracy and international democracy through the *Frankfurt Declaration*. The so-called political democracy is to strive for the ruling power through parliamentary democracy, while respecting the rights of multiparty competition and mutual opposition; economic democracy advocates the realization of different forms of public ownership, the development of a mixed economy, the improvement of economic level, and the fair distribution of income and property; Guarantee the basic rights of citizens' work, medical care, pension, education, etc., and improve the social welfare and security system; international democracy is to fulfill the UN Charter and promote the development of backward areas. This program advocates the basic concept and value pursuit of the Social Democratic Party's “freedom, equality, justice, solidarity and mutual assistance.” In addition, the practice of democratic socialism in northern Europe has a perfect social welfare system. For example, “The government must guarantee the right of all citizens to health care” “All children can go to college without being weighed down by student loans” “Big companies are not allowed to destroy the environment” “Establish a government that is not controlled by monetary interests” , etc.^[5]

Democratic Socialism is Increasingly Active in China. Since the reform and opening up, great achievements have been made in the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics, but in practice, many problems have also been exposed, such as corruption, environmental degradation, uneven development, increasing polarization, and the protection of the basic rights of vulnerable groups. and many more. These problems have been long-standing, complicated and complicated, and they have taken the initiative to test the future and future of socialism with Chinese characteristics. In view of the successful practice of democratic socialism in Europe, some people turned to research and disseminate it to China. In the theoretical circle of our country, the trend of thought of democratic socialism spread and spread rapidly, reaching its climax around 2007. A group of “ideologues” vigorously advocate democratic socialism, and some newspapers, magazines are full of democratic socialist rhetoric. In 2018, when people marked the 170th anniversary of the *communist manifesto*, someone took the opportunity to “sell” democratic socialism and attack it fiercely. They thought that Engels had become a democratic socialist in his later years. This is clearly a dismemberment and deliberate distortion of marxist theory. Some scholars point out that democratic socialism advocates that socialism with Chinese characteristics does not have to take

^[5]Men xiaojun. Analysis of Bernie sanders' “democratic socialism” [J]. Contemporary world socialism,2017(01). (In Chinese)

public ownership as the main body, that the nature of the "two vanguard groups" of the communist party of China is intended to weaken the foundation of the party's working class, and that to build a harmonious socialist society is to advocate class reconciliation. These conclusions pose a very specific realistic challenge to sinicized marxism.^[6] After arduous struggle, the trend of thought of democratic socialism gradually fell silent.

Whether the Road to Democratic Socialism is Suitable for China

The attitude toward democratic socialism in our country has experienced a complete opposition and resisted the process of viewing and learning. In recent years, democratic socialism has become increasingly active in China. There have been representatives such as Xin Ziling, and Professor Xie Tao. They also have their own representative publication, *Yanhuang Chunqiu*, a representative website of the China Democratic Socialist Network. Whether the road to democratic socialism is suitable for China has two opposite views.

The Democratic Socialist Model is China's Future. In recent years, democratic socialism has become increasingly active in our country. They enthusiastically sang the "Swedish model" and strongly supported and praised this model. They believe that the democratic socialist model is the future prospect of China's development. Firstly, democratic socialism is the best in the world. They hold a view that the world after World War II is a competition between the capitalist system, the communist system and the democratic socialist system. The result of the competition is the victory of democratic socialism, which has evolved both capitalism and communism, and democratic socialism is changing the world. Second, the author believes that the Marx is the pioneer of "peace and socialism" and put forward the "new orthodoxy." Through the understanding of the break and the quotation of the monopoly of the stock company and the parliamentary election in the original Marx's original book to demonstrate the feasibility of the "peaceful transition" and rise to the democratic socialism is the orthodoxy of Marxism, causing the Marxist orthodoxy in the academic world. Sexual discussion. Third, it is believed that Engels gave up "communism" in his later years, and democratic socialism removed the fantasies of communism. Fourth, it believes that the "Nordic model" has universal value and that a series of policies implemented since China's reform and opening up are democratic socialism. Once the article was published, it caused a great sensation and was supported by some people. It also met with fierce criticism and opposition.

Democratic Socialism is a Model of Capitalism and Must be Clearly Defined. For the attitude of democratic socialism, most scholars in China are more rational and objective. Through evaluation and criticism, we believe that we can learn from specific policies and cannot copy the entire model. A group of scholars conducted a tit-for-tat criticism and clarification. They asked, "Did Engels abandoning the highest ideal of communism in his later years?" "The 'last words of Engels' is to abandon the revolution?" "Engels is a pioneer of 'peace into socialism'?" "Bernstein 'just repeats the words of Engels's'?", From the perspective of literature, historical data and logic, the paper criticizes the wrong viewpoint. From the point of view of ideology, democratic socialism is an anti-marxist bourgeois trend of thought. Since all socialism has the common characteristics of "a better life" and "common prosperity", it is easy to blur the distinction between scientific socialism and democratic socialism. Shen Fei pointed out that, unlike the welfare of the democratic socialism society, China's well-off society in an all-round way to the basic principles of scientific socialism and public ownership as the main body of the socialist market economy conditions as the foundation, can effectively meet people's increasing need of a better life, gradually achieve common prosperity and the free development of everyone.^[7] Xincheng Zhou think, From the perspective of social system, democratic socialism is a model of capitalism. From the historical role, democratic

^[6] Zhong haitao, han xiping. Analysis of democratic socialism -- from the perspective of its challenge to sinicized marxism [J]. Huxiang BBS,2017,30(03). (In Chinese)

^[7] Shen fei. The connotation of the new era of "better life" and "common prosperity" -- an analysis based on the experience and lessons of western democratic socialism [J]. MAO zedong Deng xiaoping theory research,2018(01). (In Chinese)

socialism in capitalist countries, played a role in extending the life of capitalism; In a socialist country, it is a bridge from socialism to capitalism. Democratic socialism in a socialist country is bound to evolve into capitalism. It is an important task to adhere to the basic principles of scientific socialism, clarify theoretical right and wrong, and draw a clear line between scientific socialism and democratic socialism.^[8]

So far, the existing research results have clearly understood democratic socialism and reached many principled consensus: democratic socialism is different from reforming capitalism rather than socialism, democratic socialism and socialism with Chinese characteristics. The two roads, to adhere to socialism with Chinese characteristics, can draw on democratic socialism; future research still needs to be deepened and refined.

Recognize the Essence of Democratic Socialism and Adhere to the Path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

The active socialist trend of thought in China is affecting the future development of China. Although the emergence and development of democratic socialism has certain historical inevitability and legitimacy, it is only a specific temporary relative coordination state. This model does not have universal value and is not suitable for Chinese society. To solve the Chinese problem, only by adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics and based on the actual situation of the country, reform and innovation are the way of the king.

The Essence of the Debate on Democratic Socialism is Whether or not to Adhere to the Road of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. The diversification of the guiding ideology of democratic socialism is different from the guiding position of Marxism in China, the difference between the “mixed economy” and the public ownership system in China, and the political claim that it is the difference between the “People's Party” and China's adherence to the working class party. As well as its abandonment of communism and compromise of capitalism, it shows that democratic socialism is a fundamentally different path from socialism with Chinese characteristics. Democratic socialism is by no means the path to solve the Chinese problem. To solve the Chinese problem, only by adhering to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics and based on the actual situation of the country, reform and innovation are the way of the king. History and practice have proved and will continue to prove that only socialism with Chinese characteristics can save China. Only socialism with Chinese characteristics can develop China and lead China to a better future. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the theme of all theories and practices of our party since the reform and opening up. The road of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the inevitable result of our party unity and leading the people of all nationalities in the country to achieve the goal of “two hundred years” and realize the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people. select.

The Democratic Socialist Model is only a Temporary Relative Coordination State in a Specific Background, a Specific Era, and a Specific Region before the full Productivity of Capitalist Society can be Exerted. This state of coordination is based on the “mixed economy” with the private economy as the main body. The contradiction between the private possession of capitalist social production materials and the socialization of production still applies. Democratic socialism adopted adjustment policies such as “welfare socialism”, “functional socialism” and “fund socialism”, which alleviated this contradiction to some extent, but it cannot completely solve this contradiction. This is the best proof, so this state is fragile. Once the entire productive capacity of the literary society can be exerted and the social form changes, the model of democratic socialism will not cease. The specific background and specific era refer to the era of the era of peaceful development and the background of economic globalization. If it is assumed that it is in the war years, then there is no place for the reform and peaceful transition advocated by democratic

^[8] Zhou xincheng. Recognizing the essence of democratic socialism and drawing a clear distinction between scientific socialism and democratic socialism -- commemorating the 170th anniversary of the *communist manifesto* [J]. MAO zedong, deng xiaoping theory, 2018(09).

socialism. It is assumed that Northern Europe is not involved in the economy. The wave of globalization, then this state of coordination has no economic basis to rely on the development of foreign trade. A specific territory refers to the unique democratic tradition of Northern Europe and the fact that there is less population. It is said to be temporary because, as in the previous analysis, this model does not solve the basic contradictions in society. It is said to be relative because it is favored by people and has its own flaws and problems. Thus, the democratic socialist model does not have universal value and is not suitable for China's development.

Adhere to the Socialist Road with Chinese Characteristics, Learn from the Specific Policies of Democratic Socialism, and Realize the Benign Interaction between “four self-confidences” and Economic and Social Development. China has made remarkable achievements in its development in recent years. The main economic indicators were kept within an appropriate range. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.6 percent, exceeding 90 trillion yuan. Consumer prices rose by 2.1 percent. In the balance of payments a basic equilibrium was maintained. A further 13.61 million new urban jobs were added, and the surveyed unemployment rate remained stable at a comparatively low level of around 5 percent. Economic structure was further improved. The service sector's contribution to growth approached 60 percent. New growth drivers grew rapidly. Business startups and innovation continued to surge nationwide, with an average of over 18,000 new businesses opening daily and the total number of market entities passing the 100 million mark. Opening up was expanded on all fronts, China's total volume of trade in goods exceeded 30 trillion yuan, and its utilized foreign investment totaled US\$138.3 billion, ranking China first among developing countries. Precision poverty alleviation made significant progress, with the rural poor population reduced by 13.86 million, including 2.8 million people assisted through relocation from inhospitable areas. Living standards continued to improve. Per capita disposable personal income grew by 6.5 percent in real terms. Close to 100 million payments were made to assist students from families in financial difficulty, covering all school types. More than 6.2 million housing units were rebuilt in rundown urban areas and 1.9 million dilapidated rural houses were renovated.^[9] These achievements have enhanced people's confidence in their path, theory, system and culture. The model of democratic socialism and the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics are “cars on two runways”. Its effective concrete policies are worthy of reference. Some scholars believe that the communist party's democratic socialist welfare policy contains the contents of socialism to a certain extent and solves the contradictions and problems encountered in the economic and social development of the corresponding countries. The content and form of the democratic socialist welfare reform of the labor party can be used for reference to improve the public service system in China.^[10] However, the real solution of China's problems still requires deepening reform and opening up based on China's reality.

The practice of new democracy in Europe is indeed fascinating, but this path does not suit China's realities. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the choice of history and the choice of the people. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China 70 years ago, the achievements we have made fully reflect the truth and light of scientific socialism. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only way to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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