

The Three Stages of Utopian Socialism and Its Influence on Scientific Socialism

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Abstract

Utopian socialism has experienced three stages of development in world history, namely, Utopian socialism from the 16th century to the early 17th century, Utopian socialism in the mid-18th century, and Utopian socialism in the early 19th century. They have had a great impact on the development of Marx's theory and practice of scientific socialism. Marx and Engels critically inherited and developed the theory of Utopian socialism in the 19th century, and later formed the theory of scientific socialism. In the 20th century, the socialist countries in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including China, inherited Marx's theory of scientific socialism in all aspects of economy, politics, education, culture, social construction, and at the same time, they had the vision of socialist society described by early Utopian socialists.

Keywords

Utopian socialism; Scientific socialism; Socialist country.

1. Introduction

Since the British Justice Thomas Moore wrote Utopia in 1516, Utopian socialism has experienced three stages of development in Europe. These three stages of development are the ideological trend of Utopian socialism in different stages formed by the dissatisfaction of officials, priests and scholars at that time with the serious problems of social development. These Utopian socialists not only attacked the dark side of society, but also revealed the face of the future society, conceived an ideal world and paradise on earth full of happiness and joy, and brought light and hope to the people at that time. Although these "sparks of genius" have surpassed the stage of productivity development, they have provided important ideological enlightenment and theoretical basis for the emergence and development of scientific socialism in the future. And directly promoted the production of Marx and Engels' theory of scientific socialism, making socialism from fantasy to science. At the same time, the ideal social outlook envisioned by these Utopian socialists is directly reflected in all aspects of socialist countries, including regime, rule of law, economy, culture, society and so on, and highlights the scene of the ideal society in practice.

2. Three Development Stages of European Utopian Socialism

Utopian socialism has experienced three stages of development since modern times, namely, the first stage represented by Thomas Moore, the second stage represented by Morelly and Gabriel Bonnot de Mably, and the third stage represented by Saint-Simon, Fourier and Owen.

2.1. Early Utopian Socialism from the 16th Century to The 17th Century

The early Utopian socialism in Europe mainly originated from the religious reform in Europe, the thirty year war and the Renaissance. During this period, people's thoughts were gradually freed from the shackles of religion, and began to usher in the ideological liberation and spiritual return. However, during this period, the feudal monarchy in Europe was not weakened. After the monarchy gradually got rid of the shackles of religion, the feudal monarchy still carried out cruel feudal rule and ruthlessly exploited the vast peasant class. Utopian socialists, represented by Thomas Moore and Tommas Campanella, have empathy for the life of the oppressed people at the bottom, and their new vision includes the flagellation of the evil old society. Therefore, in Utopia, Thomas Moore expounds what navigator Raphael hisrad saw and heard in Utopia and Utopia's measures and systems in politics, economy, education, etc., and describes an ideal society free of exploitation and oppression for the vast working people.

Tommas Campanella, an Italian priest, was persecuted by the holy see for a long time. He was imprisoned in the Pope's prison for 30 years in his life. But he still insisted on opposing the rule of the Holy See and actively engaged in anti religious activities. In his activities, on the one hand, he opposed the theocratic rule of the Pope, and at the same time, he opposed the feudal monarchy that was in collusion with the Holy See. Therefore, he built a human ideal society in the book Sun City. He mentioned that everyone in Sun City is engaged in labor, and labor is distributed by people's interests and hobbies. Products engaged in social production are delivered to public warehouses, and they are only engaged in labor for four hours a day. At the same time, products are uniformly distributed by society, all citizens live in public houses, and children have the right to education.

2.2. Utopian Socialism in The Mid-18th Century

In the mid-18th century, just half a century after the British bourgeois revolution, the rule of religion was further weakened, and the European continent entered the Enlightenment period, which advocated human freedom and liberation more than the Renaissance. Before the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789, a tripartite situation of clergy, aristocracy and bourgeoisie had been formed within French society. However, with the end of the French Revolution, the proletariat under the original third level was still under the oppression of royalty and bourgeois forces, and the welfare of living standards had not been fundamentally improved. So some enlightenment thinkers, including Morelly, Mably and others, put forward new Utopian socialism. Morelly mainly stood on the position of rationalism. According to the theory of "natural law" and "natural state", he explained in the form of code that primitive communism was a golden age in line with human society and a desirable and ideal social system. He believes that the future communist society should be a unified economic whole, guided by a unified economic plan. He considers the needs of all members of society and distributes labor among them. [1]

According to Cabriel Bonnot De Mably, the ideal social system is communism. But unlike Morelly, he did not believe that human beings could return to this "natural" system. At the same time, he believed that if we cannot return to the Communist society, it does not mean that we should give up all the struggle against inequality.[2] Mably believes that private ownership has been established, it should be regarded as the basis of peace and security, and it is wise to maintain private ownership. We should maintain the equality of private ownership without abolishing private ownership.

The distinctive characteristic of Utopian socialists in this period is that they were deeply influenced by French Enlightenment thought and began to have a direct theoretical form. Morelly and Cabriel Bonnot De Mably's Utopian socialism also has an obvious color of equalitarianism or asceticism. They discovered the problems existing after the bourgeois revolution in Europe at that time, and hoped to make up for the inequality and private

ownership problems existing in the development of the bourgeois revolution by returning to the social development in primitive communism.

2.3. Three Utopian Socialism in The Early 19th Century

At the beginning of the 19th century, after the baptism of the first industrial revolution, capitalism in Europe developed unprecedentedly, and industrial production entered the era of big machines. Under this condition, the Utopian socialists represented by Saint Simon, Fourier and Owen have historically raised Utopian socialism to an unprecedented height.

Saint Simon believes that everyone should work and does not recognize any privileges. At the same time, it emphasizes to obtain remuneration according to ability, retain private property and its right to obtain income, and the society organizes production and life in a planned way, so that the state changes from the political rule of people to the management of things and the guidance of production. Fourier proposed to establish a socialist society with "Phalanstere" as the grass-roots organization through publicity and education. In "Phalanstere", everyone works, men and women are equal, free education, the combination of industry and agriculture, and there is no difference between urban and rural areas, mental work and physical work. So as to build an equal society without exploitation and oppression with an ideal organization.

Owen advocated changing the living environment of employed workers and comprehensively popularizing social education. Governments of all countries are required to abolish bad laws in order to safeguard the interests of the proletariat. He abandoned the practice of using workers as tools, sharply criticized the capitalist system, pointed out that the poverty of the working people is an inevitable product of capitalist society, and dreamed of building an ideal socialist society without exploitation and oppression. Owen also conducted experiments in the "new harmonious commune" in America. He specially opened up a piece of land in America and built factories and houses, thus turning his Utopian socialist vision into reality.

These three Utopian socialists mainly want to realize their Utopian socialist ideas through industry and welfare. By making friends with the upper class of their own government, they publicized their ideas in order to cooperate with the rulers to achieve their goals. At the same time, they get a lot of money and material wealth through doing business, and establish social organizations, so that the working class can enter the organizations they have established to achieve the improvement of production and life. At the same time, they hope to establish a perfect welfare system to ensure the life of the working class.

3. The Effect of Utopian Socialism on Scientific Socialism

As we all know, as one of the three theoretical sources of Marxism, Utopian socialism in Britain and France is mainly Utopian socialism represented by Saint Simon, Fourier and Owen. Marx and Engels spoke highly of the "spark of genius" contained in the Utopian socialists' description of the future human society, but also profoundly pointed out its Utopian theoretical defects, and creatively transformed socialism from a Utopian form into a scientific form with high practical possibilities in critical inheritance.

Marx highly affirmed the role of Utopian socialism. Marx and Engels mentioned in the Communist Manifesto "These socialist and Communist works also contain critical elements. These works attack all the foundations of the existing society. Therefore, they provide extremely valuable materials to inspire workers' consciousness. Their positive ideas about the future society, such as the elimination of urban-rural confrontation, the elimination of families, the elimination of private profits, the elimination of wage labor, the promotion of social harmony, and the transformation of the country into a pure production management organization." [3]

Marx emphasized that Utopian socialists, from Utopia to Owen sharply criticized the primitive accumulation of capitalism and the oppression of modern capitalism on the working class. From criticizing sheep eating people to criticizing the injustice of education in capitalist society. These Utopian socialists began to criticize capitalism from the date of the birth of capitalism, leading to the subsequent uprisings such as Thomas Münzer and Francois Noël Babeuf, which effectively shook the foundation of capitalism. And Marx affirmed the theories and propositions about economy, politics and society in the three stages of Utopian socialism, and recognized the valuable materials and rich resources left by these Utopian socialists to the later scientific socialist movement.

Classical writers such as Marx and Engels fully criticized and inherited the content of Utopian socialism. Thus, the theory of scientific socialism was founded, which made socialism from fantasy to reality. Therefore, in the subsequent process of the proletarian revolution, the theory of scientific socialism has become the theoretical source of Marxists' goals. The future society envisioned by Utopian socialists has become the blueprint for the practice of scientific socialism by countless Marxists. There are many ideas in the works of Utopian socialism, which have a lot of influence on the later construction of socialist countries, including economy, politics, culture, society and so on. Throughout the development of the world socialist movement in the 20th century, the socialist countries established in this process are all branded with the brand of Utopian socialist theory.

4. Conclusion

Throughout the development of the three stages of Utopian socialism, it has brought great influence to the birth of scientific socialism and the development of practice. Through the summary of the three stages of Utopian socialism, Marx and Engels have a clearer understanding of the shortcomings and defects, and thus critically inherited the ideas, making socialism from ideal to reality, from Utopian to science, from theory to practice. Utopian socialism ended in the early 19th century. After the critical inheritance of Marx and Engels' thought in the whole 19th century, and finally to the practice of scientific socialism in the Soviet Union in the early 20th century, it laid the foundation of the world socialist movement.

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