

# World Socialism Studies

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### • Special Contribution •

**The New Era: A New Starting Point of Reform and Opening-up** ..... Yang Huang (4)

Entering the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is China's great achievement in its reform and opening-up. China's most important experience in reform and opening-up is to adhere to CPC's leadership, carry out the Party's basic line, unswervingly follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and always ensure the correct direction of the reform. The new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a new historic juncture of China's reform and opening-up. In the new era, we must always adhere to the general goal of deepening the reform in an all round way, to socialist market economy in terms of the direction of the reform, and to the main line of carrying forward the structural reform on the supply side. We must adhere to the people-centered development, comprehensively deepen the reform based on the rule of law, and promote the new pattern of opening-up in an all-round way. We must advance the reform and opening-up in the new era in the spirit of racing against time, and make a major breakthrough in the reform with great ideological emancipation. We must bring about genuine advance in the reform through concrete action, and give full play to the initiatives of the central and local governments.

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It is a historic, comprehensive, holistic and inevitable event for socialism with Chinese characteristics to enter a new era. Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era is the latest achievement of the sinicization of Marxism. It systematically answers the basic questions facing socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, and it surely will continue to consolidate and strengthen the common ideological and political foundation for people of all ethnic groups in China to unswervingly follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The transformation of the primary

social contradictions in contemporary China marks a new era for socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is an endogenous and spiral transformation of the social formation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It gives socialism with Chinese characteristics a fundamental and materialized driving force in the new era.

**Perceiving and Grasping the Power of Truth—Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Xi Jinping and the *Communist Manifesto*** ..... Li Dongdong and Shi Zhong (31)

The *Communist Manifesto* is the source that nourishes the belief of the Chinese communists. It has deeply influenced the leaders of the Communist Party of China from generation to generation, including Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping. The *Communist Manifesto* is a programmatic document leading the advance of socialism, and it has been used by the Communist Party of China to guide China's revolution, construction and reform. The Communist Party of China has inherited and developed its scientific principles and has been a faithful heir of its spirit. The unity of theory and practice is the basic method of learning and carrying forward the spirit of the *Communist Manifesto*.

• International Affairs •

**The Situation in Cuba and Sino-Cuban Relations During the Transition of Cuban Top Leaders**

..... Yang Jianmin (36)

In April 2018, Diaz Canel was elected Chairman of the State Council and Chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Ninth National People's Congress of Cuba. It marks a crucial step forward in the election of Cuba's top leadership. Compared to the Raul Castro administration, the new administration shows some new characteristics. Politically, a new and more diversified leading group is formed with "the new taking main responsibilities while the old playing a facilitating role." Economically, the new leading group will continue to carry forward Raul Castro's project of updating socialist model, rapidly develop non-public economy and slowly advance the reform of state-owned enterprises. For a better international environment, the new leading group will maintain and develop relations with Venezuela and the left-wing governments in other Latin American countries, and actively improve relations with Western countries. However, it will also have to face the tough challenges of "the declining left and rising right" as the current political pattern of Latin American politics, as well as the great pressure from US-Cuban and Cuban-European relations. In the Sino-Cuban relations, China remains a stabilizer in Cuba's diplomacy and foreign trade, as well as a strong backing in its foreign relations. Cuba plays an important role as a strategic pivot in the spheres of geopolitics, ideology and Sino-Latin American cooperation. It is of the common interests for both countries to correctly position, further strengthen and continue to carry forward the Sino-Cuban relations.

**The General Election in Cuba and Its Implications to the Intergenerational Changes of Cuban Leadership and Future Challenges** ..... Fan Lei (42)

In April 2018, Diaz Canel was elected the Chairman of the State Council and Chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Ninth National People's Congress of Cuba. The state power of Cuba was handed over smoothly to the next generation of Cuban leadership. A political pattern is formed that "join the new with the old and, with facilitation from the old for the new." Canel's winning the election is the result of both his solid working experience and the institutionalization of team building for party and government cadres in Cuba. Since the 1990s, Cuba has survived the "special period of peacetime" under the leadership of Fidel Castro, and experienced the process of "updating" economic and social model for economic growth and improvement in people's living standard under the leadership of Raul Castro. Shouldering the arduous task of achieving prosperity and sustained development of socialism, the new generation of leaders will lead Cuba into a new era of deepened reform. The governing capacity of the new Cuban leadership is to be tested out under extremely complicated domestic, regional and international situation, tough challenges of the economic difficulties, the task of further "updating", the strained Cuban-US relations, the changing political structure in the Latin America, and the instable geopolitical environment.

**The Change of Cuban Leaders and the Current Situation and Challenges in the Cuban-US Relations**

..... Han Han (49)

During the Obama administration, the US government changed its attitude towards Cuba and the two countries resumed diplomatic relations. Since President Trump took office, however, relations between Cuba and the United States have continued to fall short of expectations. In the future, the Cuban-US relations will not only affect the bilateral and multilateral economic and trade development, but also constitute an important external environment for Cuba in updating its economic and social model. With the help of domestic development achieved through policy updating, the new political leading group in Cuba will promote a diversified diplomacy with Cuban characteristics in order to deal with the more complicated US diplomatic maneuvers.

• **Issues of Ideology** •

**Teaching the History of Marxism, Socialism and Communism in U. S. Colleges and Universities**

..... Norman Markowitz, Translated by Li Shuqing (57)

Intellectual freedom has been repeatedly touted as the hallmark of American higher education, but history has proved otherwise. Before the period of “McCarthyism”, there were no courses on Marxism in American colleges and universities; Communist professors were compelled to hide their party membership; Communists in governments, universities and enterprises were weeded out. During the period of “McCarthyism”, individuals had to sign an oath that they were not or had not been members of the CPUSA in order to gain college and university employment; if individuals wished to address Marxism and socialism in their courses, they must frame their teaching in anti-Communist terms. After the period of “McCarthyism”, most of the victims in the blacklists failed to gain college or university positions. In the 1980s, anarchist oriented New Left radicals who had been dismissed gained new positions in universities. In brief, Communists have been targeted at a much higher level than others in all areas of US life. Once a teacher joins the CPUSA, he will have problems in career, promotion and publication and even be threatened by the FBI. Under capitalism, intellectual freedom is conditional, and it is at best an ornament sustained through “repressive tolerance”.

**The Essence of Corruption and the Countermeasures against Its Root** ..... Liu Dezhong and Wen Zhaoxia (64)

In order to effect a permanent cure against corruption, we need to have a clear understanding of the nature and mechanism of corruption. We should not confuse corruption with decay, and should look at them from the height of politics. A socialist countries led by communist party is progressive in political terms, and for that reason as long as it maintains its progressiveness and purity, there will be no hiding place for political corruption. What people usually call corruption is actually decay, which we must distinguish in both theory and policy. Political corruption is the most serious corruption, and it is mainly expressed as the formation of interest groups with an attempt to steal the power of the party and state; sectarianism engaging in non-party organizational activities that undermines the party’s centralization and unity. To have a truly effective fight against corruption, we should not rely solely on specialized agencies, and deal with the majority with a minority; instead, we must rely on the mass of the people and guard against minorities with the majority. The whole Party must not forget its original ideals and aspirations, and must vigorously promote the spirit of carrying forward the revolution to the end. The whole party must have the courage for revolutionize itself, and resolutely put an end to corruption.

• **Foreign Left Observation** •

**Market, Privatization and Corruption** ..... Debra Saze, Translated by Bao Dawei (70)

**Prospects for a New International System: Challenges for Developing Countries** ..... Bobby Toassan (77)

The world today is showing a trend of multi-polarity. In the face of neoliberal globalization, some developing countries have adopted alternative or more progressive choices of roads of development according to their actual conditions and needs, and strengthened their national construction. However, the US military hegemony still exists, and interventionism and unilateralism have remained. Moreover, in many developing countries and emerging economies, despite economic growth, polarization is widening to varying degrees, which exposes policy deficiencies policies in terms of obtaining resources and ensuring equal opportunities. They all need comprehensive and sustainable policy reform. China has had a positive impact on and played an important role in many developing countries with regard to building peaceful and stable environment and their economic development.

**• Insights from History •****What Would Happen if Lu Xun Were Still Alive? —Questioning the “Secret Conversation” in 1957 between Mao Zedong and Luo Jinan in Shanghai** ..... Chen Jin (79)

In recent years, a “secret conversation between Mao Zedong and Luo Jinan” has been known and attracted wide public attention through periodicals and websites, during which Luo Jinan raised the question “What would happen if Lu Xun were still alive?” to Mao Zedong. However, careful investigation shows that Luo Jinan was not Mao Zedong’s fellow-townsmen, and did not attend the meeting as Mao Zedong’s “fellow villager” and “old friend from Hunan Province” to raise the above mentioned question. It is true that Mao Zedong paid three visits to Shanghai in 1957 and had five talks with people from all walks of life, with Luo Jinan’s presence at one of the talks, but none of the people who attended the same talk ever suggests that Lu Xun was mentioned during the talk. Besides, while Mao Zedong did talk about “what would happen if Lu Xun were still alive” in 1957, he was not answering a question from anyone. Instead, Mao Zedong was the one who posed the question and then gave his own answer. The purpose was to overcome the obstacles for implementing the policy of “letting a hundred flowers blossom and letting a hundred schools of thought contend”, or, in Mao Zedong’s own words, “to use Lu Xun as a model so that everyone can learn from him”. It is clear that the so-called “secret conversation” is not only non-existent, but also contradictory to Mao Zedong’s original intention of talking about Lu Xun.

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