

FOREWORD

In order to understand and grasp the world configuration and the development of the socialist movements, the Academy of Marxism of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) established a key research project in 2018, “Research on the New Progress of World Socialist Thoughts and Movements” (2018–2022). The results of this research project are a series of annual development reports, i.e., the *Reports on the Development of the International Communist Movements*. The results of this research are published annually by the Social Science Academic Press, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, entitled “*Yellow Book of International Communist Movements*.”

The content of this book comes from the “*Yellow Book of International Communist Movements: Annual Report on Development of International Communist Movements (2019-2020)*” (in Chinese) published by the Social Science Academic Press, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in June 2020. After refinement, the book was translated into English and published by MarxVentuno Edizioni (Italy), and the Vietnamese version is published by Vietnam Political Theory Press at the same time.

This book consists of five parts, including the general report, hot issues, reform and development, ideological trends, and information. Among them, the general report is a general analysis formed on the basis of 17 sub-reports, presenting the overall situation of the international communist movements and the development of world socialism in 2020 and forecasting the development trend in 2021. The hot issues focus on reviewing the international communist movements in 2020. The chapter on reform and development expounds the new development in theory and practice in the five existing socialist countries, i.e., China, Vietnam, Cuba, North Korea, and Laos. The ideological movement chapter reflects the latest development of the non-ruling communist parties

in various countries. The information chapter selects the 50 most noteworthy events in the international communist movements and world socialism in 2020 for a brief introduction.

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The authors of the sub-reports of this book are composed of experts and scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and various universities who study the international communist movement and world socialism. Their resumes are featured in each article.

The Editors-in-Chief of this book are particularly grateful for the support of MarxVentuno Edizioni (Italy) and Andrea Catone, the Editor-in-Chief of the publishing house, for his meticulous review, served as important contribution to the publication of this book. This book is the first English volume of the series of annual reports on the development of the international communist movements. It is expected that we will continue to publish the series every year in the future. We hope that readers will continue to follow us, and welcome your comments and suggestions to help the research group improve the quality of research to further improve the series of the reports constantly.

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ABSTRACT

In the context of profound changes unseen in a century in the world today, the international communist movements are also in the process of shaping a new landscape. The year 2019 is of great commemorative significance in the history of the movements, which comprises the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist International, the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the May Fourth Movement and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Communist parties around the world held a variety of commemorative activities for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist International to summarize its historical experience and lessons and explore the possibility of international union in the new era. China solemnly commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the May Fourth Movement and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and reviewed the historical process and achievements of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on its way to glory, inspiring the Chinese people to continue their efforts to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and contribute to the development of the world socialist movements.

In 2019, an event was also held in the Western world to “commemorate” the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago and celebrate the victory of the “Cold War”. Although the physical barrier that stood between socialism and capitalism was torn down 30 years ago, the European Parliament passed another anti-communist bill in 2019, severely suppressing the activities of communist parties. Within the EU, the invisible barrier between the two ideologies is getting harder and harder.

In the socialist countries: the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) pooled wisdom for the convening of its 13th National Congress, and laid out a medium and long-term development strategy; the

Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) concentrated efforts on strengthening cadre building as well as ideological and theoretical construction, making personnel and theoretical preparations for its 11th National Congress in 2021; Cuba revised its constitution, adjusted its state administrative system, and made new progress in socialist construction in the context of solemnly commemorating the 60th anniversary of the victory of its revolution; and, the DPRK revised its constitution to de-emphasize the "Songun politics", continued its strategic adjustment centering on economic construction, and made breakthroughs in diplomacy.

The communist parties in non-socialist countries showed mixed results. "Red bright spots" included: in Asia, the communist parties in Nepal succeeded in co-governing, forming a new government and opening a new stage of national political stability and economic development; in Europe, the Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB-PVDA) became a "dark horse" in its own parliamentary elections and achieved a historic breakthrough by winning one seat in the European Parliament elections; and, in Oceania, 25 years after the dissolution of the former Communist Party of New Zealand, a group of young people, mainly school students, established the New Communist Party of Aotearoa (NCPA). However, most of the communist parties were in a difficult position. In South Asia, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) lost again in the general election, with its vote share falling to a historic low. In the past few years, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) has been declining in membership and financial resources. In order to reverse the decline, the JCP has revised its Party constitution and Party program, reoriented its inter-party relations, and moved towards the road of unity with the left. In the European Parliament elections, no other communist party won a seat, with the exception of the PTB-PVDA, which won one seat, the Communist Party of Greece, which kept two seats, and the Portuguese Communist Party, which saw its seats fall to 2. In 2019, the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) held a conference to commemorate its 100th anniversary, elected a new Party chairman and adjusted its struggle strategy to expand its mass

base and influence by cooperating with other left-wing parties in the U.S. elections.

Throughout the world, although the international communist movements have reached a new turning point, the basic pattern of “strong capitalism, weak socialism” between the two systems has not changed. In the context of profound changes unseen in a century, building a community with a shared future for mankind has become a wise choice for the harmonious coexistence of the two systems in the new era.

In 2020, in the context of an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the world, the differences between socialist and capitalist countries in terms of epidemic control and medical security are highlighted, and the advantages and disadvantages are clear. China, Vietnam, Cuba, the DPRK, and Laos have performed outstandingly in controlling the epidemic, and proactively provided substantial medical and humanitarian assistance, which fully demonstrates the superiority of the socialist system. The pandemic has also highlighted the relevance and urgency of building a community with a shared future for mankind. The communist parties around the world criticized the capitalist system in the context of the pandemic, and various socialist trends of thought and left-wing parties that value the environment and protect ecological balance will receive more attention.

The main activities of the international communist movements in 2020 will revolve around major events such as the 200th anniversary of Engels’ birth and the 150th anniversary of Lenin’s birth. It is expected that the communist parties and socialist countries of various countries will hold commemorative events to review and summarize the theory and practice of socialism from utopia to science, from one country to multiple countries, and to discuss the new developments in world socialism at this stage.

Keywords: Communist International, New China, 70 years, the relationship between the two systems, a community with a shared future for mankind.