

The Triadic Dimension of *The Communist Manifesto*: Its Implications for Scientific Education in a New Era's Youth Talent

LI Dongming

Northeastern University, Shenyang, China

The Communist Manifesto, as the initial comprehensive exposition of scientific socialist theory, encapsulates the scientific spirit of Marxism. As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new epoch, and the world is in the throes of an unprecedented century-long transformation, the importance of young talent in bolstering national scientific and technological progress grows ever more apparent. It is of paramount significance to profoundly understand and elucidate the theoretical heritage, practical guidance, and directional leadership that *The Communist Manifesto* provides to scientific education for the young talent of this new era from three perspectives: theory, practice, and history. This understanding is vital for young talents to further deepen their accurate comprehension of the governing laws of the Communist Party, the construction laws of socialism, and the development laws of human society. The nurturing of scientific spirit and scientific literacy in young talents has critical implications for providing talent support in building a world scientific and technological powerhouse.

Keywords: *The Communist Manifesto*, youth talent, scientific education, theory, practice, history

In 1920, Mr. Chen Wangdao published the first Chinese translation of *The Communist Manifesto*, paving the way for the scientific theories of Marxism to propagate across the vast expanse of China. Over the course of a hundred-year struggle, *The Communist Manifesto* has guided generations of Chinese Communists to a series of great accomplishments, including the establishment of the Chinese Communist Party, the founding of the People's Republic of China, the implementation of reforms and opening up, and the initiation of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. These accomplishments have laid the theoretical foundation and spiritual core for a hundred years of struggle by Chinese communists. On June 27, 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping's reply to the volunteer service team of *The Communist Manifesto* exhibition at Fudan University reaffirmed the crucial role of *The Communist Manifesto* in "guiding enormous aspiring individuals to establish the lofty ideals of communism and devote themselves to the cause of national liberation and rejuvenation" (People's Daily, 2020b). This is a clear requirement and earnest hope for the majority of young people to firmly uphold the scientific spirit. Young talents constitute an essential group in the team of technological innovation talents, and the scientific spirit is a quality that needs to be fostered in young talents in the new era. Examining the multiple significances of *The Communist Manifesto* for the scientific education of young talents in the new era from the three dimensions of theory, practice, and history is not only an inherent requirement for scientific education in

the context of socialism with Chinese characteristics entering the new era, but also a significant topic for young talents to support the construction of a world scientific and technological powerhouse.

Theoretical Dimension: *The Communist Manifesto* Provides the Theoretical Cornerstone for the Scientific Education of Young Talents

In *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx comprehensively expounds on the objective laws of social historical development, profoundly indicates the direction of human societal development, scientifically proposes the concept of “Two Inevitabilities”, and in the preface to “A Critique of Political Economy”, advances the thought of “Two Nevers”, revealing the spiritual essence of scientific socialism. Marx’s ideas of the “Two Inevitabilities” and “Two Nevers” signify the inexorable historical progression towards communism superseding capitalism, serving as a fundamental theoretical pillar for the triumph of the proletarian struggle and providing the theoretical foundation for enhancing scientific education. Regarding this, General Secretary Xi Jinping earnestly instructed, “The vast majority of party members, especially young party members, should earnestly study Marxist theory, combine the study of party history, the history of New China, the history of reform and opening up, and the history of socialist development” (People’s Daily, 2020b), so that they will be better armed with Marxism theoretically. This holds substantial educational implications for young talents. The nurturing of the scientific spirit is intricately linked to a profound exploration of Marxist theory. It is solely within the framework of Marxist theory that the scientific spirit can find a firm grounding.

In *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx states: “The downfall of the bourgeoisie and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable” (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012a, p. 413). The scientific assertion that Marx proposed about the inevitable demise of the bourgeoisie and the inevitable victory of the proletariat is based on the worldview and methodology of historical materialism. It scientifically summarizes the proletarian revolutionary movement and the labor movement and analyzes the fundamental contradictions of capitalism in-depth. In capitalist societies, where capital occupies the means of production and hires labor, the contradiction between socialized production and capitalist private ownership is the root of all contradictions and conflicts in capitalist society. As Marx stated,

Modern bourgeois society, with its relations of production, of exchange and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and of exchange, is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells. For many a decade past the history of industry and commerce is but the history of the revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production, against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeois and of its rule. (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012a, p. 406)

Capitalism, as a developmental stage in human history, will inevitably be unfit for social historical development due to its decay in the struggle with the proletariat. Simultaneously, the capitalists’ ceaseless uncompensated appropriation of surplus value in the process of expanded reproduction will inevitably accelerate the sharpening of its fundamental societal contradictions, making them irreconcilable. Thus, with a profound insight into the laws of human societal historical development, Marx scientifically foresaw the ultimate downfall of the bourgeoisie and the inevitable victory of the proletariat. The concept of “Two Inevitabilities” signifies a scientific understanding of the laws of social and historical development, and serves as a theoretical cornerstone and foundation of belief for the proletariat’s victory in the revolutionary struggle against the bourgeoisie. To enhance the scientific education of young talents in the new era, it is essential to use Marx’s concept of “Two Inevitabilities”

as the theoretical core and spiritual essence, to deepen the width and depth of Marxist theory in the scientific education of young talents, and to expand and innovate the methods and carriers of Marxist education. It is crucial to extend the theoretical truths of Marxism by persistently integrating it into the narration of “the Chinese story”, allowing young talents of the new era to understand and comprehend Marxism in the context of “the Chinese path, Chinese theory, Chinese system, and Chinese culture”. It is also important to enable young talents to understand the power of truth in Marxist theory through scientific education, thereby encouraging them to contribute to the grand practice of building a world-leading power in science and technology with a scientific spirit.

Marx posited,

No social order is ever destroyed before all the productive forces for which it is sufficient have been developed, and new superior relations of production never replace older ones before the material conditions for their existence have matured within the framework of the old society. (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012b, p. 3)

Marx’s concept of “Two Nevers” represents a truthful understanding of the laws of human social and historical development, which deepens and supplements the philosophical underpinnings and practical paths of the “Two Inevitabilities” concept, together constructing the theoretical foundation of scientific socialism. Lenin further elucidated the twisty course of the proletariat’s victory over the bourgeoisie, stating, “The proletariat’s objective is to establish socialism, eradicate social class distinctions, ensure universal labor participation, and dismantle exploitative structures. However, this goal cannot be realized all at once; a significant transitional period from capitalism to socialism is indispensable” (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 1956, p. 351). The demise of the bourgeoisie and the triumph of the proletariat necessitate a complex and circuitous process, wherein the decisive role is played by advanced productive forces. The proletariat can only replace the bourgeoisie and achieve final victory when social productive forces are sufficiently developed. In the initial stages of exploring the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Deng Xiaoping presciently stated, “After a long time, socialism will necessarily supersede capitalism. This is an irreversible general trend of historical development, but the road has many twists and turns” (Deng, 1993, pp. 382-383). The replacement of the bourgeoisie by the proletariat is a truthful transformation of the laws of human social historical development, which carries significant implications for scientific education. We need to unify the education of Marxist truth and laws, elucidate the essence of social development, clarify the laws of social history, and inherit the spirit of theoretical truth from the Marxist standpoint, viewpoint, and method. In doing so, we construct a theoretical system, ideological system, and organizational system for the scientific education of young talents, solidify the foundation of Marxist faith in scientific education for young talents, and rally the majority of young talents to struggle for the country. This way, they can adhere to the correct norms of scientific research in technological innovation activities, uphold a strong patriotic sentiment, and create technological achievements that meet the needs of the country and the people.

Practical Dimension: *The Communist Manifesto* Provides a Practical Guide for Scientific Education for Young Talents

As a textbook for the cause of the proletariat, *The Communist Manifesto* is a general exposition of the Marxist worldview and methodology, embodying the practical path of scientific education for communists, and plays a crucial guiding role in the scientific education of young talents. Analyzing from the methodological

perspective of strengthening the scientific education of young talents in the new era, the theoretical connotation of seeking truth from facts and the mass line contained in *The Communist Manifesto* is both the essence of scientific education and its crucial content and approach.

In the German preface to *The Communist Manifesto* in 1872, Marx stated,

However much the state of things may have altered during the last 25 years, the general principles laid down in this Manifesto, are, on the whole, as correct today as ever. Here and there some detail might be improved. The practical application of the principles will depend, as the manifesto itself states, everywhere and at all times, on the historical conditions for the time being existing. (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012a, p. 376)

Marx, with a scientific spirit of seeking truth from facts, closely combined different historical conditions to guide the development of workers' movement practice and the great cause of communism. Engels further pointed out, "Marx's way of viewing things is not a doctrine but a method. It does not provide ready-made dogmas, but criteria for further research and the method for this research" (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012c, p. 664). Marxism is not "bookish knowledge" or a "textbook-style reader", but a practical treasure with powerful vitality, a scientific truth that constantly combines the scientific spirit of seeking truth from facts with practice. In the scientific education of young talents, we should adhere to the essential meaning and methods of seeking truth from facts, based on the thought characteristics and cognitive traits of young talents, and strengthen their cohesion and guidance. Specifically, to strengthen the scientific education of young talents, we must be based on China's basic national conditions and the objective reality of the young talent group, and examine and analyze the key points and specific paths of scientific education from a realistic and concrete perspective. On the one hand, we must adhere to objective inspection and analysis of seeking truth from facts, start from reality, deeply grasp the ideological status quo of young talents from both positive and negative aspects, face complex problems, deepen positive guidance, and permeate the value criterion of seeking truth from facts throughout scientific education. On the other hand, we should adopt specific methods that conform to the behavioral habits and cognitive styles of young talents, adhere to starting from the objective reality of young talents, plan educational policies and approaches with an objective and rational scientific attitude, and highlight the educational significance of the thought character of seeking truth from facts with specific and historical measures.

Marx points out in *The Communist Manifesto*,

In what relation do the communists stand to the proletarians as a whole? The communists do not form a separate party opposed to the other working-class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole. (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012a, p. 376)

Marx's mass viewpoint and humanistic thoughts lay the historical materialist cornerstone of scientific socialism, serving as the theoretical origin of the mass line and as an essential content and practical carrier of scientific education. The historical materialist mass historiography not only elucidates the objective laws of social historical development but also identifies the driving forces propelling social history, which bears significant theoretical implications and practical enlightenment for examining and enhancing scientific education among young talents in the new era. We should deepen the essential meaning of the mass line into the working approach for scientific education among young talents, adhering to the work guideline of "everything for the youth, everything relying on the youth, coming from the youth, and going to the youth". We need to engage ourselves in the community of young talents, fully understand their ideological conditions, deeply grasp their intellectual demands, and accurately master their ideal prospects, always committed in the great practice of building a world scientific and

technological powerhouse alongside the young talents. We should practice the ideal pursuit and cognitive-action requirements proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, which state “strengthen our belief in ideals and conviction through learning, thinking, practicing and comprehending, and fulfill our original aspiration and mission through striving for great achievements” (People’s Daily, 2020b). This will provide a platform, guarantee, and confidence for young talents to make significant contributions in scientific and technological innovation.

Historical Dimension: *The Communist Manifesto* Provides Directional Guidance for the Scientific Education of Young Talents

Since the publication of the first full Chinese translation of *The Communist Manifesto* a century ago, the basic principles of Marxism have been continuously integrated with China’s specific circumstances, outlining a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics—a path that has taken the Chinese nation from “standing up” to “becoming wealthy”. To enhance the scientific education of young talents in the new era, we must highlight the directional guidance of 21st-century Chinese Marxism, inherit and carry forward the important role of *The Communist Manifesto* as the spiritual flag of Marxism, and rally young talents to strive in building a world scientific and technological powerhouse, thereby contributing wisdom and strength to the realization of the “Two Centenaries” goal and the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation (People’s Daily, 2020b).

As a critical marker of the birth of Marxism and the first political program of the proletariat party, *The Communist Manifesto* has had its scientific nature and truthfulness validated by world social historical development since its inception. Particularly, China’s New Democratic Revolution, socialist revolution and construction, as well as the great practice of reform and opening up, have fully demonstrated the correctness of the basic principles contained in the *Manifesto*. It is not only a theoretical weapon guiding the proletariat revolution and construction but also the spiritual pillar of the ideological core of the members of the Communist Party of China. This sets both the theoretical foundation for the scientific education system for young talents and the fundamental direction for the scientific education of young talents in the new era. A profound understanding of the significant meaning of the Marxist direction in the scientific education of young talents in the new era and the construction of the spiritual pillar of the scientific spirit of young talents necessitate a full recognition of the practical course and important role of Marxism. Lenin, in explicating the historical development of Marxism, pointed out:

Marxism evolved on the basis of inheriting all human knowledge; its discourse on the laws of human social development is the correct conclusion drawn from the most accurate, meticulous, and profound research, thus it can penetrate people’s hearts and gain the support and endorsement of the proletariat. (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 1995, p. 284)

The Marxist worldviews and methodologies of dialectical materialism and historical materialism are our powerful theoretical weapons for observing the world, understanding things, and analyzing problems, and they are indeed the essence of the scientific spirit. It is imperative that we ground ourselves in China’s current scientific and technological advancements, extracting inspiration from both the historical and practical perspectives of *The Communist Manifesto*. Through a comprehensive interpretation of Marxism’s enduring vigor within the theoretical framework of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the 21st century, we must exhibit the empirical evidence of Marxism’s truths through China’s reform and opening up. By nurturing the scientific spirit and acumen of our young talents, we aim to cultivate their value system and behavioral alignment with Marxism in the new era. Through this process, we will ensure that Marxism is transmitted among our youth, becoming their

ideological consciousness and spiritual pursuit, propelling them towards the relentless pursuit of establishing a world science and technology powerhouse.

In *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx analyzed the historical process of the formation and development of the bourgeoisie, scientifically demonstrated the scientific nature and truthfulness of the eventual inevitable victory of communism, and pointed out that “a new society without class antagonism will emerge, in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all” (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau, 2012a, p. 422). *The Communist Manifesto* provides a path direction and theoretical weapon for the proletariat’s revolutionary struggle and the construction of socialism, pointing out the advanced system of communism for the development of human society. The scientific education of young talents in the new era adheres to the direction of communism. The key lies in profoundly understanding the theoretical connotations of scientific socialism in a communist society and the practical path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and transforming the grand ideals of communism into the striving goals and spiritual support of young talents. In every historical period of our country, the central leadership of the Party has provided new interpretations and developments of the theoretical connotations of communism. Mao Zedong proposed, “This system of thought and social system is distinct from any other system of thought and any other social system, and is the most complete, most advanced, most revolutionary, and most rational since the history of mankind” (1993, p. 686). Deng Xiaoping pointed out that “At moments when the Chinese Communist Party encounters difficulties, and when China’s development encounters dilemmas, it is the ideal belief in communism that supports the brave struggle of countless Communists, and some even make huge sacrifices for it” (Deng, 1993, p. 137). Xi Jinping stated from the perspective of the new era:

Marxism lays the theoretical foundation for communists’ firm ideals and beliefs. We need to fully grasp the worldviews and methodologies of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, and deeply understand that the realization of communism is a historical process gradually achieved by one stage goal after another. (People’s Daily, 2020a)

The grand ideal of communism is an inevitable trend in the historical development of human society and the ultimate goal of the proletariat’s struggle. At the same time, it is also the ideal belief that young talents in the new era adhere to in their persistence in scientific and technological innovation. We must deeply understand the new era connotations of the grand ideal of communism, accurately grasp the stage-specific characteristics of communism, and guide young talents in scientifically understanding the laws of the Communist Party’s governance, the laws of socialist construction, and the laws of human social development. We must enrich and expand the spiritual connotations and practical methods of the grand ideal of communism in the new era, and take the “new era pursuit” of young talents and the “youth struggle” of the new era as the connotations and carriers of scientific education. Focusing on the educational mainline of “the all-round free development of human beings” in the new era, we should build a scientific education system that supports the ideal pursuit and belief pillars of young talents in the new era based on the grand ideal of communism. We must transform the spiritual support of communism into the driving force for young talents in scientific and technological innovation and unite young talents in their patriotic struggle to build a world-leading science and technology powerhouse.

References

- Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. (1956). *Complete works of Lenin* (Vol. 29). Beijing: People’s Publishing House.
Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. (1995). *Lenin selected works* (Vol. 4). Beijing: People’s Publishing House.

- Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. (2012a). *Selected works of Marx and Engels* (Volume 1). Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. (2012b). *Marx & Engels selected works* (Vol. 2). Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- Central Compilation and Translation Bureau. (2012c). *Marx & Engels selected works* (Vol. 4). Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- Deng, X. P. (1993). *Selected works of Deng Xiaoping* (Vol. 3). Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- Mao, Z. D. (1993). *Selected works of Mao Zedong* (Vol. 2). Beijing: People's Publishing House.
- People's Daily. (2020a-05-05). Xi Jinping's speech at the meeting commemorating the 200th anniversary of Marx's birth.
- People's Daily. (2020b-07-01). Xi Jinping's letter to the young faculty and student Party members of Fudan University encourages the majority of Party members to strengthen their ideals and beliefs through learning, thinking, and practicing, and to fulfill their initial mission in their endeavors.