

Research on Understanding of the Basic Clue of Modern Chinese History

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Abstract: The basic clue of modern Chinese history is an important way to understand and summarize the whole operation system, basic content, objective development law, and landmark influence events of modern Chinese history. Grasp the basic clues can help to grasp the modern and contemporary Chinese history from a macro perspective and avoid the misunderstanding of historical fragmentation and historical nihilism. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the basic clue of modern and modern Chinese history has experienced several major academic debates, from which we can see and summarize the main line of the basic clue of modern and modern Chinese history. The discussion on the basic clue of Chinese modern and modern history was first put forward by Hu Sheng in 1954, in order to solve the specific problem of the stages of Chinese modern and modern history. After the mid-1980s, Li Shiyue and Hu Bin put forward a new method. Then Zhang Kaiyuan elaborated from the perspective of national movement the clue of modern Chinese history put forward the "national movement theory", Wei Qizzhang put forward the "three steps theory", Chen Xulu put forward the "New city metabolism" theory, Kong Lingren's anti-imperialist and anti-feudal "two-line theory" and so on.

1. Introduction

The basic clue of modern Chinese history is an important way to understand and summarize the whole operation system, basic content, objective development law, and symbolic influence events of modern Chinese history. This paper jumps out of modern history, overlooks modern history, and grasps Chinese modern history from a macro perspective to avoid the misunderstanding of historical fragmentation and historical nihilism in the study.

2. Questions raised in the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the historiography was faced with the task of breaking the old dynastic system and establishing and flourishing the research system of modern and contemporary Chinese history under the guidance of Marxism. In view of the defects in the stages and clues of modern and contemporary Chinese history before liberation, Hu Sheng first published the Stages of Modern Chinese History in 1954, proposing that the key to solving the defects in the content structure of modern and contemporary Chinese history textbooks is to solve the problem of stages, and to solve the problem of stages, we must determine the criteria for

dividing periods. In other words, a clue is found from the complex facts of modern Chinese history, by which various historical phenomena can be linked according to their own logic in accordance with the procedure of development. Therefore, according to the specific characteristics of modern and modern Chinese history, we can basically use the manifestation of class struggle as a mark to divide the period. According to this sign, there have been three periods of upsurge of revolutionary movement in modern Chinese history. Namely: Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Revolution, Boxer Movement and Xinhai Revolution. Based on the three revolutionary upsurges, the modern history of China can be divided into seven stages: 1840-1850; 1851-1864; 1864-1895; 1895-1900; 1901-1905; 1905-1912; 1912-1919. Dai Yi basically agreed with the staging standard of Hu Sheng rope, but there were differences in the division of stages. Accordingly, the modern history of China can be divided into three major stages: 1840-1873; 1873-1901; 1901-1919 [1]. Sun Shouren put forward a discussion on the dividing standard of Hu Sheng Rope [2]. "As the semi-colonial and semi-feudal society of modern China is a special transitional society, we cannot examine the question of the stages of this society's history without paying special attention to certain changes in the character of this society and certain changes in the character of the class struggle, rather than examining only the high and low tide of the class struggle as the standard." The main criterion for staging should be some change in the nature of the principal contradiction. According to this standard, he divides China's modern history into four major periods: 1840-1864; 1864-1894; 1894-1905; 1905-1919 [3]. Fan Wenlan also believes that the main contradictions of modern society should be taken as a reliable basis for dividing the stages. He pointed out that the economic and political oppression of imperialism and its lackeys and the national democratic revolution of the Chinese people became the fundamental contradiction running through China's modern historical period, and also became a clue running through various events. In semi-colonial and semi-feudal Chinese society, the contradiction between imperialism and the Chinese nation, and between feudalism and the masses of the people, are the two principal contradictions, and under different circumstances, one of the two principal contradictions plays a leading and decisive role in substituting each other, and becomes the principal contradiction in a given period of time. Having found this principal contradiction, there is a reliable basis for dividing the stages. Based on this, he divided China's modern history into four stages: 1840-1864; 1864-1895; 1895-1905; 1905-1919 [4]. Jin Chongji's point of view is that "the standard of staging should be the combination of socio-economic (mode of production) representations and class struggle representations." It must be examined from the mode of production, the social economy, the productive forces and the relations of production. But in class society, the history of all societies is the history of class struggle. Therefore, the criteria for determining the stages of history must at the same time be examined in the context of the manifestations of the class struggle. Accordingly, he divided the modern history of China into five stages: 1840-1864; 1864-1894; 1895-1900; 1901-1914; 1914-1919 [5]. On the division of the stages of modern Chinese history, in addition to the above classification, there are Rong Mengyuan and Lai Xinxia's "four division method" [6]. Looking at the main points of the various opinions, it seems that there are no fundamental differences in absolute opposition to each other, but only differences in understanding of the concept of "standards" and the aspects of the class struggle. After some academic debate, Hu Sheng's theory of "three revolutionary upsurges", which takes class struggle as a sign of dividing periods, was basically accepted and applied to the compilation of general textbooks of modern and contemporary Chinese history.

This controversy has sorted out a rough clue and system for the study of modern history, taking the class struggle as the main line, and understanding the laws of various stages of modern China from the complex historical events. It sets up an important paradigm of Marxist historiography and provides a scientific method of modern history research for historians of historical materialism. However, this debate also has two shortcomings, one is because it is in the early stage, relatively

immature, too much emphasis on the regularity and necessity of history, while ignoring the particularity, the class struggle as the whole content of modern social development, but also for the later "left" extreme buried the foreshadowing. Second, the polemics at this time had the character of serving reality, and historiography was continuously strengthened to serve politics, while the academic value and standards of historiography were in a weakened position.

3. New academic thinking after the 1980s

In the 1980s, as academics returned to normal, scholars began to have new thoughts on the basic clues of China's modern and modern history. Li Shiyue and Hu Bin put forward a new approach, believing that learning from the West to develop capitalism was the fundamental way for China to strive for independence and progress in the early stage of modern and modern history. Hu Sheng, Zhang Haipeng, Rong Mengyuan and others disagree with the above view, arguing that "the combination of imperialism and Chinese feudalism transformed the process of semi-colonial and semi-colonial China, that is, the process of the Chinese people's resistance to imperialism and its lacunars", and re-enriched the basic clues of modern and modern Chinese history under the guidance of class struggle. Then Zhang Kaiyuan elaborated from the perspective of national movement the clue of modern Chinese history put forward the "national movement theory", Wei Qizhang put forward the "three steps theory", Chen Xulu put forward the "New city metabolism" theory, Kong Lingren's anti-imperialist and anti-feudal "two-line theory" and so on.

In 1980, Li Shiyue first published "From Westernization, Reform to Bourgeois Revolution" and put forward the "four-stage theory". He pointed out that the modern and modern history of China from 1840 to 1919 experienced four stages: the peasant war, the Westernization movement, the Reform movement and the bourgeois revolution, and the former stage gave birth to the factors of the latter stage, which were closely connected. The former stage of the movement has not yet ended, the latter stage of the movement has begun, the former stage is still the end, before and after the staggered, reflecting the rapid changes in modern Chinese society, reflecting the rapid development of the political consciousness of the modern Chinese people, marking the basic context of modern Chinese history. Among them, salvation is the theme. The reform of the Westernization school, the pursuit of prosperity advocated by the reformists, and the revolutionary movement of the revolutionaries have always been the process of constantly practicing and trying new plans to save the nation from peril. The bourgeoisie was pushed onto the stage of history with a weak foundation and weak political experience, so the shower of "bourgeoisie" only wet the land of feudalism, far from shaking its foundation. Tasks which the bourgeoisie had failed to perform were entrusted to the proletariat [7].

In order to answer the questions of scholars, Hu Sheng reinterpreted the theory of "three revolutionary upsurges" and argued that the clue of "Westernization movement - the Law of Reform - the Revolution of 1911" could not discuss the historical progressive trend of this period. Although the Westernization movement advertised itself as "a New Deal for self-improvement, it could not be expressed as a fact of self-improvement in the face of foreign invaders." The failure of the Westernization Movement proved that "modern new productive forces cannot develop in the shell of feudalism". For the Boxer Movement, "we cannot erase its historical status because under the historical conditions at that time, the Boxer Movement could not develop into a healthy anti-imperialist struggle," and "the second revolutionary climax period, including the Garrison Restoration and the Boxer Movement, is an important link in modern Chinese history [8]." Liu Danian agreed that the Westernization movement "did not touch the key point of the feudal system" [9]. Xie believes that the Taiping Revolution should become the starting point of the main line of modern Chinese history development, the garrison reform law and the Boxer Movement should

become the central link of the main line of modern Chinese history development, and the Xinhai Revolution has become a more prominent manifestation of the main line of Chinese history development in the old democratic revolution [10].

After the controversy of "four stages theory" and "three revolutionary upsurges theory", more theories emerged in the in-depth discussion of the clue problem, and it was no longer a single theory. Qi Qizhang does not agree with the above two theories, and thinks that they are not closely related to the development of modern Chinese history, so he put forward the "three stages theory". The clue of modern Chinese history must be connected with the development prospects of modern China, and the basic clue should be the domestic class struggle that can reflect the development prospects of modern Chinese society. These struggles mark the development process of China's modern history, which can reflect the development law of China's modern history. The class that leads these struggles not only "is the main driving force that can push forward social progress", but it itself "determines the main content of The Times, the main direction of the development of The Times" and becomes "the center of The Times". Otherwise, the class leading the movement itself cannot "determine the main content of The Times and the main direction of the development of The Times", and the movement it leads cannot reflect the development prospect of modern Chinese history. The future of the old-style bourgeois democratic revolution in China is the development of capitalism, which is gradually realized through the internal class struggle (which manifests itself not only in the struggle to change the economic base, but also in the struggle to reform the superstructure). The Westernization Movement and the Boxer Rebellion can not be included in the symbol reflecting the basic clue. Only the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, the Reform Movement and the Revolution of 1911 can reflect the basic clues of modern Chinese history [11].

Zhang Kaiyuan put forward the "national movement" theory. From the perspective of the national liberation movement, the author explains the basic clues of China's modern and modern history. The national movement in modern China is a mixed type of movement with both national independence and social innovation. From the perspective of the national movement, the Chinese modern and modern history before the May Fourth Movement can be summarized as "two stages and three upsurges". Taking the year 1900 as the boundary, the modern Chinese national movement is divided into two stages. In the first stage, it experienced the upsurge of the two national movements, namely the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and the Garrison Restoration, the Yi and the Tuan Movement after the Sino-Japanese War. In the second stage, it also experienced the upsurge of the national movement with more modern characteristics, the Revolution of 1911. "The three upsurges of the national movement are the overall trend of development objectively existing in modern Chinese history, the waves or curves naturally formed by the rise and fall of the Chinese people's struggle against imperialism and its lackeys, and they embody the basic clues and the law of development of modern Chinese history [12]."

Chen Xulu perfected the theory of "Three revolutionary upsurges" and put forward the theory of "New Town metabolism", pointing out that the historical clue is a chain with links, and links are historical events that can show metabolism and promote modernization and have phases. The basic clue of modern Chinese history can be summed up in one sentence, modern times is an era of reform and counter-reform, repeatedly advancing. It should be explained in three levels: first, it is always in the process of great change; The second is that one wave after another of change is manifested as a rapid metabolism, advancing in a spiral; Third, the essence of the metabolism of modern Chinese society is to push modernization step by step. In the first half of the 20th century, there appeared a complete revolution, forming three revolutionary upsurges: the Revolution of 1911, overthrowing the Qing government; In 1927, the National Revolution overthrew the Beiyang warlord government; He overthrew the Kuomintang in 1949 [13].

4. Understanding the clues of modern Chinese history

The main line of the study of modern and contemporary Chinese history exists objectively, but the views of scholars are changing. From the above debates, we can find that the "main line" of the clue of modern and contemporary Chinese history is the productive forces and relations of production, the contradictory movement of economic base and superstructure, and the main line of history is the "theme" of history, which can be consistent in modern and contemporary Chinese history. Through this method, we can try to summarize the main line of modern Chinese history with several key "themes".

The first is "independence", which means opposing the aggression of capitalist imperialism and seeking national independence. The process of the Chinese people's continuous resistance and restoration of the independence and integrity of sovereignty involves economic, political, cultural and other aspects. The main line of "aggression and anti-aggression" runs from 1840 to 1949.

The second is "democracy", and the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Movement and the Boxer Rebellion against the rule of feudal absolutism can all fall within this scope. The exploration of the democratic power of the bourgeoisie by different classes, the new democratic revolution of the proletariat. "Fighting feudal autocratic rule and establishing bourgeois democratic power" is the clue of these 110 years;

The third is "prosperity", the development of capitalism to seek national prosperity, modern Chinese capitalism is not only national capital, he also has foreign capital, Chinese capitalism has "development and non-development" [14].

5. Conclusion

The whole content of modern and modern Chinese history is extremely rich, just like the copper coins in the old era. These basic clues are like ropes, which can run through a pile of scattered copper coins. It will be much more convenient for people to understand the whole pile of copper coins, and our understanding of all modern and modern Chinese history will be much better adjusted, and it will be easier to grasp the development direction and law of modern Chinese history. Only in this way can we jump out of modern history, look down on modern history, grasp Chinese modern history from a macro perspective, avoid the misunderstanding of research, and better carry out further breakthroughs and development in the field of Chinese modern and modern history [15].

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