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Study on the Development of Xi Jinping's Ecological Civilization Thought

Dong Zhang, Wei Li

Xijing University School of Marxism, Xi'an 710123, China.

Abstract: Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought is the guiding ideology of China's ecological civilization construction, and it is of great significance and value to conduct in-depth analysis and research on its development. The development of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought has experienced a long process and the Thought is a scientific theoretical principle of China's ecological civilization construction proved by practice. The development of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought could be divided into three stages: germination, formation and maturity, each stage being the continuation of the previous one. There are different original views and arguments in these three stages, which, combined with different historical backgrounds, finally lead to scientific theories, reflecting distinct historical development logic.

Keywords: Ecological Civilization Thought; Development; Man and Nature

Introduction

Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought is derived from Marx and Engels' thought on the relationship between man and nature, Marxist ecological thought with Chinese characteristics and the practice of China's ecological civilization construction. Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought is derived from and tested by practice, guiding the construction of ecological civilization in China. From 1969 to 2018, Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought has undergone 49 years when it has experienced three stages of germination, formation and maturity. In-depth analysis and research on the three development stages helps to understand the development course of the Thought, which is of great significance to accurately understand Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought.

1. The germination of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought

When Xi Jinping was in Liangjiahe, Yanchuan County, Yan'an, he attached great importance to environment protection, reducing tree cutting by building biogas digester, conserving water by building silt dams and preventing sand storms by planting trees. These measures are specific early practice of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought. According to Zhengding County's actual situation and its economic development, Xi Jinping, on one hand, adjusted industrial structure and developed rural tourism by taking advantage of economic benefits of the environment, which eventually contributed to coordination between economic development and environment protection; on the other hand, he ensured sustainable development of agriculture by planting shelter forest along sandy and beach land on the basis of ecological environment's positive function to agricultural development. Xi Jinping urged Zhengding County not to sacrifice the environment when seeking economic development, and, instead, to value not only the practical benefits of economic development, but also the long-term benefits of environmental protection. Zhengding County's selection as water resources site of Hebei Province is an authoritative confirmation and recognition to environment protection measures taken in earlier years. ^[1] The development of poverty alleviation industry is required to focus on the relationship with forestry, and the development of resources to achieve the coordination of social, economic and ecological benefits. In view of the poor forestry foundation, low coverage rate and low stock volume in Ningde, Xi Jinping adopted a positive policy. Based on the value of forestry, Xi Jinping comprehensively promoted the revitalization of forestry, developed forestry resources at different levels by classification,

deepened the reform of forestry system and mechanism, and solved the two major problems of forestry policy system and the right of forestland; strengthened the reform of the forestry management system and the management and protection of forestry resources; transformed operation mode, realized transformation from single operation to comprehensive development, extensive operation to intensive operation. Xi Jinping pointed out that the economic development potential of eastern Fujian lies in the mountains and forests, forestry has very high ecological and social benefits, and forests are reservoirs, treasuries and grain banks. ^[2]Rural environmental construction should be included into well-off plan to ensure the coordinated development of economy, society and environment. Transformation of economic growth pattern should be started, ecological environmental governance and protection should be incorporated into overall plans for economic and social development, comprehensive urban environmental governance, with the treatment of waste water, waste gas, waste residue and noise as the main focus, should be strengthened, and harmless waste treatment should be realized so as to achieve simultaneous improvement in economic, social and environmental benefits. ^[3]The protection of land is vital to the coordinated development of social and economic environment, and the rational development and utilization of land is key to the development of the country and social stability. Therefore, land protection and the construction of land legal system should be constantly pushed forward, the utilization and management of land should be carried out according to law. Xi Jinping's opinions on the relationship between agricultural development and economy, forestry and economic development, and land and economic development symbolize the germination of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought.

2. The formation of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought

In Zhejiang Province, Xi Jinping put forward the important proposition that "ecological prosperity leads to civilization prosperity and ecological decline leads to civilization decline", and advocated to promote the construction of ecological environment in Zhejiang Province and build "green Zhejiang" by taking the road of economic development featuring science and technology leading, resource saving, clean production, ecological protection and circular economy. ^[4]Xi Jinping also called for attaching importance to ecological security, following the principles of ecology, proposed to vigorously develop ecological agriculture and ecological industry, to promote ecological culture and population ecological system construction, to carry out the "ten key projects", "five major systems" and "eight scientific and technological innovation" projects, and make full use of modern science and technology to strengthen ecological protection and environmental construction. Xi Jinping put forward the idea of "ecological construction performance", requiring to include the fruits of ecological construction into political achievements assessment, so as to urge the party committees and governments at all levels to fulfill the responsibility of ecological environmental protection. Through strengthening the construction of ecological culture, the ecological value of pursuing harmonious coexistence between man and nature is to be established in the whole society, so that ecological culture could be the common value and pursuit of the whole society, ^[5] which could promote the profound transformation of people's ecological thoughts and concepts. It is of significance to speed up the construction of ecological agriculture, realize the transformation of agricultural growth pattern and development mode, take green consumption demand as the guidance in agricultural development, develop ecological agriculture, and produce green agricultural products, in this way, people's demand for green products could be satisfied, and green consumption concept could form among consumers. Xi Jinping put forward that it is a social revolution to build a resource-saving society where ecological environmental advantages can be turned into ecological economic advantages in ecological agriculture, ecological industry, and ecological tourism; lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets although there is dialectical unity of contradictions. ^[6]Xi Jinping advocated enterprises to produce green products to form an ecological industrial chain that helps enterprises to realize upgrading and coexistence, and promotes enterprises to carry out green production and actively assume social responsibilities. The public should be guided to green consumption, enthusiasm of the public should be stimulated to participate in the establishment of a circular society, and the public should be guided to establish a correct concept of green consumption, so that a good atmosphere of green consumption and green life could be formed in the whole society. China has actively participated in global environmental governance, played its role as a major country in global environmental governance, increased its voice in international ecological construction, strengthened its capacity to respond to climate change in an all-round way, and contributed its share to global sustainable development. ^[7]Xi Jinping put forward in Zhejiang that

ecological prosperity leads to civilization prosperity and ecological decline leads to civilization decline, lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets; the aforesaid propositions together with his circular economy theory constitutes the framework of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought.

3. The maturity of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, ecological civilization construction has been incorporated into the overall plan for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the goal of building a beautiful China has been put forward. Ecological revitalization has been listed as one of the five major areas of rural revitalization, comprehensively elevating the strategic position of ecological civilization construction. From the proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind in 2012 to the proposal of building a community between man and nature and community between creatures on earth in 2021, Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought has grown mature. By deepening institutional reform for promoting ecological progress, building an ecological cultural and economic system, the fruits of ecological civilization construction have been safeguarded with sound institutional system and legal system. The 19th CPC National Congress elevated ecological progress to the status of a millenarian project for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation. To promote ecological progress, we must establish and practice the concept that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and adhere to the basic state policy of conserving resources and protecting the environment. ^[8]Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought was formally established at the National Ecological and Environmental Protection Conference held in 2018. In the same year, ecological civilization was written into the amendment to the Constitution, and Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought has officially become the guiding ideology of China's ecological civilization construction. The fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) clearly proposed that modernization should be established on the basis of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and the goal of "realizing new progress in ecological civilization construction" during the 14th Five-Year-Plan, [9] and the vision goal of 2035 to taking ecological civilization construction to a new level. It clearly pointed out that the road of China's modernization is to realize the harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and correctly handle the relationship between man and nature, which demonstrates ecological civilization construction from the perspective of human civilization development. The century-long struggle of the Communist Party of China has created a new path of Chinese-style modernization and a new form of human civilization, ^[10]and it is the achievement of China's ecological civilization construction. China attaches great importance to the relationship between man and nature and pursues harmonious coexistence between them, which is different from the modernization path of European and American countries. During this period, Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought was systematically elaborated by combining Marxist ecological thought with the actual situation of China's ecological civilization construction and China's excellent ecological culture, and China's ecological civilization construction system was also becoming complete.

Xi Jinping ecological civilization thought, from the perspective of Marxist historical materialism and dialectical materialism, analyzes the relationship between man and nature and the cause of environment problem. The three stages of its development conform to strict logic, being connective and progressive. This Thought were originated from and tested by the practice of China's ecological civilization construction, finally formed a scientific theory of ecological civilization construction with Chinese characteristics, which provided theoretical guidance and practical guidance for China's ecological civilization construction, and offered solutions to global environmental problems.

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About Authors: 1. Zhang Dong (1995-), male, Han, from Danfeng, Shaanxi, Master, Teaching Assistant from Xijing University School of Marxism, research fields: Marxist ecological civilization, ideological and political course reform and innovation.

2. Li Wei (1990-), male, Han, from Xi'an, Shaanxi, Master, Lecturer from Xijing University School of Marxism, research fields: ideological and political education, regional social culture.

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