On the Path Choice of Marxist Ecological Economy Thought to Solve Ecological Crisis

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Abstract: Nowadays, industrial civilization has developed highly and created a lot of material wealth for human society, but in the end, ecological crisis has followed. As a socialist country, in the face of the heavy ecological crisis, the solution and the exploration of practical path are all carried out around the Marxist theoretical system. As an important part of Marxist theory system, ecological economic thought mainly includes the economic relations between man and man and between man and nature, labor productivity, economy and ecological cycle, etc. Its theoretical form is completely consistent with the socialist harmonious society and the construction of ecological civilization in our country, thus reflecting the practical significance of solving ecological crisis with Marxist ecological economy thought. Starting with the problems of ecological economy construction in China and combining with the Marxist ecological economy thought in China, this paper discusses the path choice to solve the ecological crisis..

1. Ecological Problems Facing the Current Economic Development in China

Since the development of the first industrial revolution, both social economy and science and technology have been developed by leaps and bounds. However, with the continuous acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, the ecological environment has suffered serious damage, and human beings are faced with a series of ecological problems, such as ecological degradation, environmental pollution, resource depletion and so on. The beginning of these problems has become a key factor restricting social and economic development, and more seriously, human survival has also been seriously threatened. Human beings gradually realize that only by combining economic development with ecological development closely can we achieve healthy and stable sustainable development, while rereading and applying Marx's ecological economic thought can provide an effective path for the balanced development of economy and ecology.

1.1. Shortage of Natural Resources

In recent years, China's economic strength has been rapidly improved, but because our country has adopted extensive growth mode for a long time, the economic development is based on a large amount of investment in production factors, which leads to the rapid consumption of a large number of energy materials in China. With the rapid development of economy, China's energy reserves have been difficult to meet the needs of development. To this end, China began to change the economic development model, but because of the deviation of China's early reform orientation, the development between regions is different. When the eastern region has realized the extensive economic growth model to the intensive economic growth model, the central and western regions still take the high energy consumption and high pollution industrial industry as the main driving force of economic development (as shown in Table 1), which leads to the large consumption of non-renewable natural resources such as oil and coal, which exacerbates the deterioration of ecological environment.

Table 1 Factors affecting economic development in the western region and their annual coupling

Area	Demographic factors	Industrial factors	Scientific and
			technological factors

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Inner Mongolia	1.000	0.997	0.997
Guangxi	0.999	1.000	1.000
Chongqing	0.978	1.000	1.000
Sichuan	0.973	0.994	0.994
Guizhou Province	0.972	0.984	0.984
Yunnan	0.994	1.000	1.000
Tibet	0.770	0.471	0.471
Shaanxi Province	0.992	1.000	1.000
Gansu Province	0.890	0.971	0.971
Qinghai	0.761	0.886	0.886
Ningxia	0.770	0.906	0.906
Xinjiang	0.960	0.999	0.999

1.2. Serious Environmental Pollution

At present, the social and economic development of our country is seriously restricted by environmental pollution, mainly due to the large-scale mining of mineral resources and the large use of chemicals. Mining resources, such as oil extraction, can easily lead to oil leakage problems, plus many petrochemical enterprises in China distributed along the coast, once oil leakage will seriously pollute the marine environment[1]In addition, most mineral resources contain a large amount of heavy metals, but heavy metals are difficult to be degraded by microorganisms and can cause serious pollution to the soil. The environmental pollution caused by chemicals is mainly reflected in the lack of environmental protection consciousness of industrial enterprises, which blindly pursue economic benefits in the production process and ignore the purification treatment of emissions, which leads to the aggravation of industrial pollution. In addition, the promotion of urbanization and the rapid increase of transportation means are all factors that aggravate environmental pollution.

1.3. Large Quantities of Cultivated Land Occupied

At the present stage, the urbanization process of our country is accelerating, the urbanization rate of its resident population has been raised to about 60%, and the urbanization rate of household registration population has reached about 45%, which is roughly consistent with the forecast results (as shown in Table 2). It is necessary to occupy rural cultivated land resources in order to promote urbanization. However, the new rural construction carried out in recent years has changed the appearance of rural areas and integrated rural land for urbanization, but in the process, a large number of buildings with long service life have the problem of waste of resources.

Table 2 Projections of new urban population, 2017-2020

Year	Total	Urban	New urban	Urbanization
	population	population	population	rate (%)
	(billions)	(billions)	(billions)	
2015	13.75	7.71	-	_
2016	13.84	7.87	0.1617	56.90%
2017	13.93	8.03	0.1617	57.69%
2018	14.02	8.20	0.1617	58.47%
2019	14.11	8.36	0.1617	59.24%
2020	14.20	8.52	0.1617	60.00%

Note: 2015-2016 is true data

2. Path Choice to Solve Ecological Crisis

Since the reform and opening up, China's consciousness and full consideration of the relationship between ecological environment and social and economic development have put forward a series of ideas and viewpoints on ecological economy, such as Deng Xiaoping's thought of "controlling population quantity, improving population quality" and "unifying resource development and economy"; Jiang Zemin's thought of" sustainable development "; and Hu Jintao's new generation of leaders put forward the "scientific development strategy", which all provide theoretical basis and practical guidance for China to solve the ecological crisis.

2.1. Ecology of Science and Technology

Throughout the history of human society, science and technology have had an unprecedented impact on human society. However, as a double-edged sword, science and technology, while promoting the rapid development of social productive forces, also brings unprecedented ecological crisis to human society. Under the influence of Marxist ecological economy thought, it is necessary to develop science and technology towards the direction of ecology, that is, to use science and technology to maximize the utilization of resources and minimize the emission of exhaust gas pollutants. The ecologicalization of science and technology is more effective than the environmental pollution caused by industrial production. Marxist ecological economy thought pays attention to the balanced and coordinated development of science and technology, social economy and ecological environment. Therefore, in the process of innovation and development of science and technology, it is necessary to carry out directional guidance and ecological norms and take "solving the contradiction between human society and natural evolution" as the main development purpose to realize the common progress and coordinated development of man and nature and society.

2.2. Ecological Consumption Concept

Consumer activity is the intermediate link produced by human society in the process of production and labor, which can determine the relationships in the social and economic chain: one is to determine the relationship between the subject and object between the front end of the economic chain, production and nature; the other is to determine the market value exchange relationship at the middle end of the economic chain; and the third is to determine the individual interests of consumers in the end of the economic chain. Marxism pays attention to the material transformation relationship between man and nature, and thinks that it realizes and promotes the harmonious development between man and self-admission through productive labor. In today's society, there are many ways of alienated consumption that destroy the material exchange between man and nature, and gradually threaten the ecological environment. Taking oil as an example, its consumption is far greater than its production (as shown in Table 3). Based on this, the establishment of ecological consumption concept is particularly important. The ecologicalization of consumption concept, that is, the guarantor adjusts the consumption mode under the premise of following the ecological law, so that the consumption activity is only used as the production link to meet the normal consumption demand of human beings. The concept of ecological consumption is to control the negative effects of human use and transformation of nature within the capacity of the ecosystem to metabolize, repair, compensate and purify autonomously, so as to promote production while maintaining or restoring ecological balance and minimizing the possibility of ecological crisis[2]The concept of ecological consumption actively advocates moderate consumption, rational consumption and green consumption, and effectively limits human consumption activities to the development of social productive forces and the carrying capacity of ecological environment resources.

Table 3 Oil production and apparent consumption and their growth tables, 2015-2019

Year	Production (10,000	Apparent consumption	Growth (%)
	tons)	(100 million tons)	
2015	2934.42	5.47	-
2016	3503.9	5.78	5.6
2017	3677.3	6.06	4.9
2018	3800.5	6.48	7.0
2019	4135.7	6.60	5.2

2.3. Ecological Social System

Marx believes that environmental problems are inevitable in the development of human society, not unique to capitalism or communism. In all stages of development of human society," material exchange between man and nature "inevitably occurs, which indicates that the root causes of environmental problems are hidden in all stages of human social development. The core of the communist society, which has accomplished and balanced the existence of naturalism and humanism, is that "human beings, as the main body of practice, eliminate alienation and realize the return of human nature to human beings themselves". Ecological social system encourages people to abandon private property and alienated labor so as to realize the harmonious development between man and nature[3].

3. Summary

To sum up, under the background that ecological crisis gradually threatens the development of global economy, reinterpreting Marxist ecological economy thought and taking it as an important guide to solve ecological crisis can effectively guarantee the steady growth of economy, actively promote the all-round development of human society, and realize the harmonious coexistence between man and nature and society. At present, our country's research on Marxist ecological economy thought is constantly strengthened, hoping to find a sustainable road of ecological environment and social economy development together.

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